

Bill frees local authorities from curbs of government

Government yesterday published a Bill giving many of the controls and constraints on local government. The repeal of three Acts of 1969, including the Community Land Act, parts of 59 others is proposed. But tighter control over local authority spending is planned, reducing a system of block grants.

Block grant system is opposed on spending

Stephen Warman, Conservative MP for South West Devon, said the Bill, which would repeal three Acts of 1969, including the Community Land Act, and parts of 59 others, would remove many of the controls and constraints on local government. He said the Bill would also impose a new system of block grants, which would enable the Government to identify the needs of individual local authorities and to spend money accordingly. Mr Warman said the Bill would also allow the Government to take control of local authority spending, which he said was "out of control". He said the Bill would also allow the Government to take control of local authority spending, which he said was "out of control".

Local authorities and nationalised industries. The Bill, containing 246 clauses, is one of the longest in recent times, which caused some embarrassment for a government determined to cut down on legislation. Mr Tom King, Minister for Local Government, said the Bill would repeal three Acts of 1969, including the Community Land Act, and parts of 59 others. He said the Bill would also impose a new system of block grants, which would enable the Government to identify the needs of individual local authorities and to spend money accordingly. Mr King said the Bill would also allow the Government to take control of local authority spending, which he said was "out of control".

Poll reports Carter lead over Senator Kennedy

From David Gross, Washington, Dec 4. President Carter, who announced today that he is to stand for reelection, has been given timely encouragement by a public opinion poll. For the first time it showed him slightly ahead of his leading rival, Senator Edward Kennedy.

The survey, carried out last week by Louis Harris for ABC Television News, disclosed that the President had the support of 42 per cent of Democrats and independents, compared to only 40 per cent for Senator Kennedy. Mr Jerry Brown, the Governor of California, scored 11 per cent. On the other hand, if the sample is limited to those people who consider themselves Democrats, Senator Kennedy moved ahead of President Carter in a three-cornered contest. Forty-four per cent of Democrats said they would support the senator from Massachusetts, compared with 40 per cent for Mr Carter and 10 per cent for Mr Brown. But if Mr Brown is removed from the lists the President led Mr Kennedy by 48 to 46 per cent. The results of the survey came as a surprise to Mr Robert Strauss, chairman of the President's reelection campaign. He said that the rapid increase in support for Mr Carter was probably due to publicity approval of the way the President was handling the Iranian crisis. Agreeing with this assessment, a spokesman for the Harris poll organization said it was unclear at this stage whether the new-found popularity of the President would persist once the Iranian problem was over. He pointed out that support for Mr Carter's handling of economic and energy issues for example was still low. Nevertheless, the poll represents a remarkable turnaround in Mr Carter's popularity, however short-lived it might prove to be. In every previous poll, Senator Kennedy has far outstripped Mr Carter, in some cases by a two-to-one margin. The President's long-awaited announcement of his intention to seek reelection was made formally at the White House this afternoon. He was later attending a fundraising dinner in Washington.

Confidence gives way to uncertainty as conference deadlock on ceasefire continues

Government statement on Rhodesia in Commons today

By Fred Emery, Political Editor. The Government is to make a statement in the Commons today on the Rhodesia conference, but any suggestion of a decision was being defused last night. It was said in government quarters that, pending further contacts between Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, and the Patriotic Front leaders, the Government's intention was to keep Parliament informed. It would not announce further steps towards a separate deal without the Patriotic Front. It was also said that there was no intention at this stage of having Mrs Margaret Thatcher intervene personally with the leaders of the Patriotic Front to secure a settlement. The mood in ministerial quarters was described as uncertain. This was a shift from Monday evening when several ministers had confidently predicted that the Patriotic Front would still agree to Britain's proposals. Their point was that Lord Carrington had acted to bring it home to the Patriotic Front.

leaders that they must come to a decision. Last night this was still the belief although an element of uncertainty had crept in. So far the Government has not come under pressure from the Opposition Front Bench, although backbenchers in the Labour Party's international committee are loud with warnings and threats. Mr Peter Shore, Shadow Foreign Secretary, had put down a private notice question yesterday. When it became apparent that a statement would be forthcoming today he did not press the Prime Minister at Question Time. The Labour Party international committee passed a resolution warning the Government of a possible war in central Africa involving British troops if the outcome of the London conference did not command the full support of the Patriotic Front. Such an outcome, it said, would be a complete negation of the Lusaka agreement. The committee reaffirmed its support for the Patriotic Front. The Order in Council, which

was laid before Parliament yesterday, vests in the British Governor and Deputy Governor in Rhodesia full legislative powers, executive authority, and prerogative of mercy until independence. The order makes clear that it is the Governor who commands the commanders of the forces in Rhodesia. One section specifies that "all officers and all authorities in southern Rhodesia" shall be obedient to the Governor. Talks deadlocked: The Rhodesian constitutional conference remained dangerously stalled yesterday, with little or no progress in getting the talks on a ceasefire restarted. (David Spenser writes.) The only flicker of hope was in contacts reported between officials of the Patriotic Front and the British delegation, by telephone. The purpose, according to the British side, was to see if the possibility existed of making a start on the implementation of the details of the ceasefire. But as the ceasefire principles set out in the British plan have not been accepted by the Patriotic Front, it seemed last night as if

a more dramatic move was needed to break the deadlock. Mrs Thatcher is being kept in close touch by Lord Carrington. The fear is that if there is no movement today the conference will collapse. The contacts between officials were designed to find a formula by which the Patriotic Front might accept the British ceasefire proposals in their principles, while clarifying the details. As the issues concern technical matters such as the number and location of assembly points, and the time needed to implement a ceasefire, there was still a way for ingenious drafting to find a compromise. But the prospects were seen as distinctly fragile. Both the Patriotic Front and the British delegation spokesmen engaged in public declaration of their good faith, leaving an impression that each side wanted to lay the blame for any breakdown on the other. Mr Nkomo and Mr Mugabe accused Lord Carrington of creating "an artificial drama" in curtailing the talks on a ceasefire.

In a careful and conciliatory statement to the press, the Patriotic Front leaders emphasized that what they were seeking was a reciprocal disengagement and no disadvantage to either side. The problem was that the British proposals stipulated that the Patriotic Front forces would assemble at 15 predetermined assembly points. This was not applicable to the Rhodesian forces. This "glaringly unequal treatment" was positively dangerous to the Patriotic Front forces. The British spokesman repeatedly insisted that there was no question of foreign units operating in Rhodesia when the British Governor took over. He spoke of the "astonishing generosity" of the concessions made by Bishop Muzorewa's delegation, and added: "If there is not a final agreement including implementation of the ceasefire within the course of this week, peace may never be achieved at all."

Salisbury approval, page 8
Leading article, page 15



Stagnated victims: Rescue workers try to save some of the rock fans trampled underfoot when 20,000 tried to see the British group The Who in the Cincinnati Coliseum on Monday night. Seven young men and four women died in the rush to get unreserved seats. Because of a lack of security guards, only two of the stadium's 50 entry

doors were open. About 4,000 of the 18,000 seats had been reserved, the rest being for general admission. When the British group of four arrived and began turning up the fans thought the concert was about to start. "It was a cold night," said one policeman. "Some were drinking, some were smoking marijuana, and suddenly the

whole crowd went wild." Unaware of the tragedy, The Who went on with the concert. Survivors described the stampede as a nightmare. An usher said some people smashed a window in one door and then pushed through the glass making the gap bigger as they surged in. A girl of 15 said: "You could see people going down."

After the murder it was found that the mincing machine did not work. They tried to flush parts of the dismembered body down the lavatory, but that took too long. A fire was built and for 24 hours Mr Childs and another man burn the complete body by bit. The ashes were scattered from the window of a car on the Barking by-pass. The six murders were alleged to have occurred between October 31, 1974, and sometime after October, 1978.

Mr Mathew said: "There may well be further charges of a similar nature preferred against other persons who are alleged to have been involved in these matters. Indeed, two persons have already been charged with one or other of these offences. He was concerned that no prejudice might arise to such persons at any future trial. He intended not to mention actual names of others involved. Mr Mathew said that while being questioned by the police

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Whitelaw angrily de- all suggestions of and as for violating lights, that was for the s decide.
mentary report, page 6

Angry Dutch recall envoy

The Netherlands Government has recalled its ambassador in Paris for consultation about the French decision not to ratify the 1976 convention on the pollution of the Rhine. The decision angered the Dutch, as 45 per cent of the 18 million tons of salt polluting the Rhine each year come from mines in Alsace. The convention provided for the pumping of the brine into the ground instead of into the river. This aroused anger in Alsace whose farmers fear a contamination of the soil that would ruin it for agriculture.

Herr Schmidt to meet East German leader

Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, is to meet President Brezhnev and Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader, early next week. The news is seen as a sign that despite years of often threatening propaganda the campaign against West Germany over the question of medium-range nuclear missiles, the Communists are anxious to maintain normal, if not even better relations.

Transkei 'bankrupt'

Transkei, the showpiece of South Africa's separate development policy is virtually bankrupt. It faces a budgetary deficit of 36.5m rands (20m) because of a failure to raise international loans after severing diplomatic ties with Pretoria. Transkei is now being urged to accept a 20m rands loan from South African banks.

Korea assassination trial

Kim Jae Kyu, the former head of South Korea's Central Intelligence Agency, and seven colleagues, appeared in a military court in Seoul charged with assassinating Park Chung Hee, the country's former president. The trial was suspended after defence lawyers claimed that civilians cannot be tried by a military tribunal.

Boycott's distinction

Geoffrey Boycott scored his second hundred in five days with 110 against South Australia. This takes his total of centuries to 117, the same as Sir Donald Bradman.

Cornish Labour threat just a gesture

The divorce between the so-called Labour rebels of Falmouth and Camborne and the Labour Party has turned out to be no more than a melodramatic gesture. The Cornishmen said they were anxious about Labour's leftward list, and said that they would cease to be affiliated to the main party, but according to senior members, the fee would have been paid had the party been in funds rather than £400 in debt.

BL lays off 4,000

The first substantial cut in production by British Leyland for more than two years is to begin at Rover Solihull next week when 4,000 men are laid off for three weeks because of unsold stocks of Rovers. Said to number at least 10,000 cars. The men return to short-time working.

Plan to cut skill centres

Proposals have been made to cut the government skill centre network which trains workers. They are part of the programme for the elimination of waste under the direction of Sir Derek Robinson, the director of the Manpower Services Commission. At least 40 centres, including some in high unemployment areas, would disappear under the proposals.

AEG's 'break-even' plan

West Germany's troubled electrical goods group, AEG Telefunken, announced a streamlining of its operation which will reduce the workforce by about 13,000. The company is expected to lose about DM960m this year, but the reorganization—aimed at achieving break-even point—may attract as much as DM1,600m in new funds.

Prison officers reject 6pc

Angry prison officers at an official national conference alleged collusion between the May committee and the Home Office over a pay increase. They demanded a substantial interim pay award on top of a recommended 6 per cent rise and called for negotiations for a basic £100 a week.

Fares: Channel ferry fares are expected to rise by 15 per cent next summer but some bargains will be offered.

Los Angeles: Dracula's ghost haunts California court.

Iran Minister says students will judge US captives

Tehran, Dec 4. — The Americans being held hostage will definitely be put on trial for spying and be judged by their student captors, Mr Sadegh Ghotbzadeh, the Iranian Foreign Minister, said today.

The Minister, in an interview released by the official Pars news agency, said the next move was up to President Carter. He urged the Soviet Union not to interfere even if the United States attacked Iran.

The militant captors themselves angrily rejected reports that several of their hostages at the American Embassy were being "softened up" for imminent spy trials, though admitting they had been extensively questioned. The Government announced the formation of a new "combat cadre" of thousands of former soldiers to help protect the country from American aggression.

"Iran cannot do more than it has already done to break the deadlock" with the United States, the Foreign Minister said.

He said Mr Carter could end the stalemate by returning the Shah, or at the least instituting an investigation into the Shah's vast wealth.

However, in a development that could eventually pave the way for release of the hostages, Ayatollah Khomeini swept towards victory in his drive to turn Iran into a fundamentalist Islamic state.

In a two-day referendum, initial figures from 91 cities indicated that Iranians who voted in a turnout said to be high, approved by nearly 100 per cent a new Islamic constitution.

Kurdistan autonomy, page 10

BBC sound recordists go on strike

As BBC television technicians returned to work yesterday in accordance with the agreement worked out on Friday and confirmed on Monday, all location filming was virtually at a standstill because of an unofficial action by film sound recordists based at Ealing who disagree with the settlement.

Their strike action is expected to last until tomorrow when there is to be a meeting of the national executive committee of the Association of Broadcasting and Allied Staffs.

Leaflets were handed to returning engineers at the BBC Television Centre saying that the management's offer did not provide even a basis for negotiations.

Miners refuse to sanction wages strike

The miners have refused to give their leaders authority to call a strike against the National Coal Board's 20 per cent pay offer. This message will be conveyed today to the National Union of Mineworkers by the Electoral Reform Society which has been counting votes cast in the secret pitched ballot over the last four days.

Mr Mathew said: "There may well be further charges of a similar nature preferred against other persons who are alleged to have been involved in these matters. Indeed, two persons have already been charged with one or other of these offences. He was concerned that no prejudice might arise to such persons at any future trial. He intended not to mention actual names of others involved. Mr Mathew said that while being questioned by the police

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Helicopter saves 4 on sinking barge in storm

Four men were lifted by helicopter from a sinking barge in the Firth of Forth yesterday and taken to hospital in Kirkcaldy. The barge broke free while loading in storm force winds.

At Bangor in North Wales a teenage boy had his head gashed by flying debris and an electrician was injured when a school gymnasium collapsed in sales gusting to 70 mph.

The Friars Upper School is to be closed today.

Football results

West Ham 0, Nottm F 0
Rochdale 2, Aldershot 1

HOME NEWS

Several skill centres threatened by Government plans to cut waste in training programmes

By Donald Macintyre
Labour Reporter

The Government is considering proposals to reduce the number of its centres for training workers in new skills, as part of the programme for elimination of waste being undertaken by Sir Derek Rayner.

The confidential draft proposals would, if implemented, mean the closure of at least 10 centres, or annexes to centres, including some in high areas of unemployment.

The plans are understood to be in keeping with the criteria laid down by Sir Derek, the joint managing director of Marks and Spencer, when he was appointed the Prime Minister's adviser on the elimination of waste in Government.

Although the Manpower Services Commission has been expected to propose some rationalization of its skill centre network, the plans inspired by the Rayner exercise are likely to cause sharp trade union protests on the ground that they would deprive industry of badly needed skilled workers.

The draft proposals, probably the most detailed yet to come to light in Sir Derek's sphere of influence, which spread across Whitehall, provide for closures of the following skill centres or annexes: Cardiff (Tremorfa), Llanelli, Dumbarton, Port Glasgow, Billingham annex (Glasgow), Darlington, Sheffield annex, Leeds annex, Dudley, and Enfield annexes.

Unofficial estimates are that

the cuts would mean the loss of capacity to train almost 3,000 workers in new skills a year out of a total of about 30,000 a year throughout the skill centre network. At present, partly because of a shortage of skilled workers, the centres are understood to be in a state of overcapacity.

Training places lost at Hillington, Dudley and Enfield would, however, be replaced by those at new centres planned at Rutherglen, Redditch and Camden in London, respectively.

Training at skill centres, the successors of wartime government training centres, lasts an average six months. Among the proposed cuts are some in places for training in skills which are believed to be officially designated as suffering acute shortages of manpower: industrial electronics (48 places), instrument maintenance (20 places), electric arc pipe welding (12 places) and electric arc plate welding (36 places).

The normal procedure is for a civil servant at principal level to be detached to draw up proposals for cuts in his department, in concert with, or for submission directly to, Sir Derek, who discusses them with the minister responsible, or in the case of the Manpower Services Commission to the chairman, Mr Richard O'Brien.

The draft proposals for closure of 10 establishments is understood to be at the stage of

a submission to Sir Derek and has not yet been formally discussed with the Commission. The commission meets on December 18 and Sir Derek is likely to see Mr O'Brien before then.

The closure proposals, which may be extended to take in about four others, including two believed to be in new towns, will certainly, if implemented, be justified by the Government on the grounds that they leave the skill centre network intact and will make it more efficient. Even under the plans no region will be left without a substantial centre.

The report drew a sharp protest last night from the Civil Service Union, which represents skill centre instructors, and expects about 250 of its members to be redeployed under the plan. Mr John Randall, the union's assistant general secretary, said: "If these suggestions are true, I am appalled. Sensible rationalization to meet the demand of the labour market is one thing, wholesale closures are another. In particular we would be shocked by the closure of Dumbarton at a time when there are widespread redundancies in the west of Scotland and workers have an urgent need to acquire new skills."

In the House of Commons yesterday, Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, said he was discussing rationalization of training programmes with the commission. Training should be for tomorrow's needs and not yesterday's, he said.

50,000 civil service jobs may be cut in two years

By David Felton
Labour Reporter

The Government will tomorrow announce its plans for job reductions in the Civil Service. Union leaders expect to hear that about 50,000 posts will disappear in the next two years.

While the announcement will affect the Civil Service, it will also affect the rest of the public sector. It is unlikely to please some Tory backbenchers since it falls well short of the 10 per cent reduction, which was one of the options considered by the Cabinet. The other options were for 15 and 20 per cent cuts.

Tomorrow's announcement will be made simultaneously in the Commons by Mr Paul Channon, Minister of State at the Civil Service Department, and Lord Soames, Lord President of the Council, and the minister with responsibility for the Civil Service.

After the announcement Lord Soames will meet the unions to explain in detail the effects of the cuts. Because of the opposition of strict cash limits during the present financial year, about 20,000 jobs in the Civil Service will have been lost by April.

Whitehall officials stressing last night that the 10 per cent figure was never a minimum for the exercise and the announcement will be couched in terms of the cash savings rather than the reduction in employment in the service.

Despite this, however, the Government had made it clear that it was expecting spending departments to look for cuts in the 10 per cent range. Ministers can expect a hostile reaction from the Civil Service unions which have argued that cuts in manpower will lead to inefficiency in the machinery of Government.

The Government set in train its examination of reduction in departmental manpower after pledges in its election manifesto that the Civil Service would be streamlined. Investigations of where reductions could be made have been going on for several months, culminating in the Cabinet decision to accept savings of less than 10 per cent.

Union leaders on the Civil Service National Whitley Council met yesterday and were resolute in their determination to oppose any official suggestion of giving false information to the public. They have also been angered by what they see as the Civil Service Department's reluctance to provide them with information on which the decisions have been taken by the Government.

The unions' position is that they should "coordinate in taking action on specific options arising from the cuts exercise". The union official, yesterday, said that the range of the cuts could be as wide as between 1 and 17 per cent. He was afraid that the Department of Health and Social Security would suffer a large reduction.

The unions have also in recent weeks drawn attention to the effects the cuts may have on various Government functions including curtailment of the insurance division of the Department of Trade, which monitors the British insurance industry, and reduction in services provided by the Health and Safety Commission.

First sign of unrest as steelworkers strike

By Paul Roulledge
Labour Editor

The first sign of industrial action against the British Steel Corporation's plan for job-cuts and a 2 per cent wage rise this winter came yesterday at the Corby steelworks in Northamptonshire. The plant was shut down when 4,000 men struck over parts closure plans.

The steelworkers walked out for 24 hours in protest at the stopping of pay to 60 engineering workers who carried out routine maintenance work, that management said was unnecessary because steelmaking at Corby is due to be phased out next March.

They included many blast furnace workers, whose union leaders yesterday expected an appointment at BSC's 2 per cent pay offer and called for fresh government investment to put the industry back on its feet. Only one of the four furnaces at Corby was working despite the strike.

Mr Hector Smith, general secretary of the blastfurnace union, said: "The people of this country have got to realize that iron and steel is a basic

industry and vitally important for the nation—the same as coal."

"The Government should put more cash in now. They cannot afford to let the industry die. It is a damn shame. If our members leave the industry, they will never get them back. They have offered the miners 20 per cent and a 7 per cent rise because they say they can increase the price of coal and cannot increase the price of steel."

The blastfurnace union's leaders did not take the unexpectedly militant line of the usually-moderate Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, which they expressed disappointment at.

They agreed to take it away for consideration. But Mr Smith rejected the self-financing, retrospective productivity bargaining offered by BSC. "We are full out as we are already. There is nothing in it for us," he said.

After overnight rejection of their offer at the hands of the industry's largest union, BSC executives were yesterday relieved that the blastfurnace workers had at least agreed to

consider the package. Mr Peter Brotham, BSC's director of industrial relations, said, their talks with the union were "constructive".

He added: "The union made it clear that they appreciated the extreme difficulties facing the corporation. They expressed disappointment at the offer tabled by management and undertook to consider the proposals at their next executive meeting. In particular they will be considering the corporation's proposals for local additional payments up to a maximum of a further 10 per cent dependent on improved financial results in the steelmaking areas."

In the past two years, the blastfurnace union has been in the forefront of accepting large redundancy pay-offs rather than fighting for the plant closures that have cost, by union estimates, 40,000 jobs. The action at Corby yesterday suggests that the union may follow the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, whose executives will consider strike action on Friday.

Leading article and letter, page 15

Move to ban exports for slaughter

By a Staff Reporter

Portsmouth City Council is promoting its own Bill in Parliament to ban the large trade through its docks of live animals destined for slaughter abroad.

Nearly 68,000 animals were exported through the city docks for slaughter last year, and nearly 26,000 had been exported up to September this year, most of them cattle, including many calves. If the Bill becomes law they would all be banned.

The city council decided to set on compassionate grounds because of disturbing reports from the Continent of continuing cruelty to animals exported from Britain for immediate slaughter or for fattening ready for slaughter, and because of the apparent failure of animal welfare regulations within the EEC.

Traders exporting animals through Portsmouth docks for reasons other than slaughter would have to apply for an export certificate and the Bill provides for a maximum fine of £1,000 for anyone found guilty of giving false information. It also permits the council's officers to search vehicles and vessels at the docks for possible contravention of the regulations, with a maximum fine of £500 for those failing to co-operate.

A council official said: "There has been a lot of evidence of suffering caused to these animals on the Continent. There is no guarantee that they will be properly treated once they leave the docks. We feel the export requirements of the trade can be met by carcass meat."

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food said yesterday that the Government's attitude was that the live trade should be allowed to continue, subject to more stringent regulations being enforced on a EEC basis rather than through unilateral action by member states.



Arresting dentistry: An Essex police dog called Bruce who has been fitted with a set of false teeth after his own were worn down and one snapped off during a training session. After a series of visits to Bristol veterinary college, the five nickel chromium teeth are in position. Police Constable Michael Mercer, the three-year-old albatross dog's handler, said: "He developed a silly habit of biting the wire in his enclosure. It was decided to see what could be done. He was too young to retire."

Talks today on strike by tanker drivers

By Our Labour Reporter

Talks will be held in London today between Shell and the Transport and General Workers' Union to try to solve the tanker drivers' strike, which has led to oil and petrol shortages in some parts of the country.

The talks were arranged last night as drivers at two more depots, in Inverness and Urmston, Staffordshire, joined the strike. The meeting, called to "review the situation" will involve the union's national negotiating committee.

It appears that shortages are now beginning to bite, particularly in Scotland, where about 50 schools in the Strathclyde region are closed because of lack of heating oil. Glasgow's 850 buses will be in service only during rush hours today.

The dispute centres on Shell's use of contract labour which the union claims could lead to job losses. Shell supplies about one fifth of the United Kingdom petrol market.

£2,750,000 deficit on Commons meals

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

Accumulated deficits on House of Commons catering amounting to £2,750,000 are to be written off as part of the reorganization of the financing of the catering department outside the House of Commons, announced yesterday by Mr Norman St John-Steves, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Leader of the House.

He pointed out that a large part of the deficit was due to the House of Commons catering department's charges on the bank overdraft. Those charges have risen year by year, as catering losses continued, and they amount to £600,000 a year.

MPs have often come under attack for allegedly eating cheap meals at the taxpayers' expense. In the members' dining room, it is possible to have a fixed price lunch or dinner for £2.50, including soup, main course and dessert or cheese and biscuits, or coffee.

Managers in commercial restaurants in Westminster, and the West End, have declared that for such meals (with four choices of main course) they would have to charge between £5 and £6.

Mr St John-Steves tried to put that argument into its correct setting yesterday when he emphasized that out of 3,500 meals served daily, only 400 were consumed by MPs.

A revised, slightly expanded estimate, laid before the House later showed that the original estimate for 1979-80 increased from £279,000 to £3,266,000. The increase is made up of £2,750,000 to write off the deficit, £34,000 for staff costs, and £242,000 of parliamentary recess and interest on a Treasury loan; £23,000 repayment of Treasury loan; £50,000 for kitchen

equipment; £100,000 working capital; and £1,200 for pension payments for retired staff.

Under the reorganization, to be carried out by the House of Commons Commission, of which Mr George Thomas, the Speaker, is chairman, MPs could well find that they and the people who work at the Commons will find it difficult to have meals there as the public outside.

Mr St John-Steves explained that the reorganization would become a fully fledged department of the House of Commons Commission, which would be established annually and their pay borne on the House of Commons (Administration) Vote.

He said that major equipment costs would continue to be paid for out of the allied Votes, and ancillary costs, such as heating, lighting and printing, would also be met in the same way as now.

The remainder of the operation would be borne on a separate trading account, which would be expected to show an overall profit. Meal and bar prices would be based on the cost of raw products, plus a wide direct expense, such as laundry services, cleaning and casual labour.

Mr Robert Cryer, Labour MP for Kewley, wanted to know whether the new arrangement would ensure that the House of Commons would be able to provide facilities, including food, drink, printing, heating and lighting, were fully charged to the press proprietors.

Mr Steves replied: "An hon. member is worthy of the same standard of service as the House of Commons. The same basic as everyone else."

Wife killed transvestite man 'on spur of moment'

Margaret Chapman, aged 32, killed her transvestite husband because she was driven beyond the limits of self-control by his repugnant habits, her counsel told a jury at St Albans Crown Court, Hertfordshire, yesterday.

Mrs Chapman, of Townley, Leicestershire, is accused with Peter West, aged 38, her husband's friend, of murdering her husband, Frederick, aged 33, who was battered to death with a garden spade as he lay in bed wearing women's clothing.

That day the charge, but Mr West, of Ivel Place, Leitch-

worth, has admitted being accessory after the fact of killing by helping dispose of the body and bloodstained bedding.

Mr Ian Davidson, for the defence, told Mr Chapman, 32, the spade was wielded by Mrs Chapman alone. She was at the end of her tether. "I killed him on the spur of the moment," he added.

Counsel added: "Her self-control was overwhelmed as she struck these blows." I invited the jury to return verdict of not guilty to murder, but guilty to manslaughter. The trial continues today.

Hope rises for 100 teachers

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

Hope of a withdrawal of redundancy notices to more than 100 teachers in Trafford came yesterday as the National Union of Teachers threatened to step up its action against the authority.

After a meeting between the authority and NUT officials, Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the union, said that they had failed to make the authority change its mind. "Serious confrontation" was inevitable, he said, unless Trafford withdrew the notices.

We have urged the Trafford authority to pull back from the brink before it is too late to prevent a serious breakdown between the authority and the teachers and the escalation of action by teachers," he said.

NUT members in Trafford are refusing to cover for absent colleagues and have voted to withdraw their labour should that become necessary.

Redundancy notices have gone out to the full-time equivalent of 98 teachers. All those involved are either temporary or part-time teachers, except eight swimming instructors.

Mr Allan Coupe, chairman of Trafford education committee, said last night that the council could not say yet whether it would be able to withdraw the notices, but it had "several fringes in the fire".

"We will not know until next week what the effect of those exercises will be, but I believe that they will allow us to withdraw redundancy notices to not less than the full-time equivalent of 75 teachers, and possibly all," he said.

BL to lay off 4,000 men at Rover Solihull

By Clifford Webb
Midlands Industrial Correspondent

The first substantial cutback in production by British Leyland for more than two years is to begin at Rover Solihull next week when 4,000 men are laid off for three weeks because of unsold stocks of Rover saloons.

When they return on January 7 they will work short time for the next two months until production is boosted by the phased transfer of the TR7 sports car from Triumph Canley to Rover Solihull.

A Rover spokesman said: "The cutback in production is being forced on us by the effects of rising fuel prices and uncertainty about future market requirements. Every other manufacturer of larger cars is affected in the same way. For instance Ford Cologne stopped Granada production for six weeks out of the last 13."

Asked to comment on reports that BL had at least 10,000 Rovers stockpiled and more being added every day he said: "Ten thousand is no panic figure. We sold over 3,000 in October alone. There has not been a collapse in demand for Rovers."

We are just being careful—taking steps in time to reduce our inventory and protect our cash flow. You only have to

look at the sky-high interest rates to see the logic in that. We are saving several million pounds."

BL management has made strenuous efforts over the past four months to reduce Rover stock. The company attracted adverse comments by offering a side of smoked salmon to motorists who test drove a Rover, but claims that the result—one in five bought a car—more than justified the expense.

However, attempts to prevent the car being discounted by dealers worried about their stocks have not been very successful. New Rovers are still being offered for sale at substantial discounts.

Meanwhile, Mr Derek Robinson, the sacked BL shop steward, said yesterday that he would attend the three-day inquiry into his dismissal which the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers is opening in Birmingham today.

He added that he did not know what form the inquiry would take until he got there or whether he would be able to call witnesses.

Shop steward supporters of Mr Robinson have called for a mass demonstration outside the union's Birmingham headquarters, timed for half an hour before the inquiry opens at 9.30 am.

Prisoners' meals £1

Essex police committee has increased the maximum allowance for prisoners' meals from 50p to £1. It is estimated that the increase will cost £5,000 a year.

Stamp celebration

Guernsey is marking its tenth anniversary as an independent postal authority with a souvenir pack of its latest stamps and a £3 philatelic voucher for more than 500 babies born there.

'Boy given teddy bear and then shot in the head'

Continued from Page 1

about a Hertfordshire robbery June 1974. Mr Childs could give evidence about a number of murders. He made a long statement and the case now being outlined was based on that, because there was little other evidence.

Counsel said that in 1974 Mr Childs was working with a Mr A making lifejackets in a factory at Haydon Road, Dagenham, London. A Mr B also worked there and lived in a bungalow next door to the factory. Mr B was part of that factory to make teddy bears. Mr A had a partnership arrangement with him.

Late in 1974 Mr Childs, Mr A and Mr B discussed the possibility of taking over the teddy bear side of the business from Mr B. It was suggested that he might be involved in an accident. The conversation turned to ideas for killing him.

A large butcher's mincing machine was bought and installed in a room in Mr Childs' council flat in Poplar, which was completely covered in polythene. On November 1 or 2, at about 11.30 pm Mr B returned to the factory and was attacked by Mr B and Mr Childs. Mr A was not present.

Mr B hit Mr B repeatedly over the head with a heavy metal pipe and Mr Childs joined in. Mr B was knocked unconscious and Mr B strangled him with a rope.

Robert Brown, who worked at the factory went to see what was happening.

The following morning, after most of the night had been spent cleaning up the factory, the Vicar called and said: "away," counsel added.

Later Mr Mathew said Mr Brown was killed. Mr B shot

him twice in the back with a silenced revolver, but Mr Brown refused to die. Mr Childs stabbed him with a diver's knife, and then Mr B hit him with an axe and then Mr Childs stabbed him in the stomach with a sword. The body was incinerated in the same way as Mr B's.

Mr Mathew said that the three men considered "killing would be an easy way to make money. Mr A and Mr B decided to ask their 'gangster friends' if they wanted any contracts. The price range would be from £2,000 to £10,000.

A sum of £2,000 was agreed with a Mr X for the elimination of Mr George Brett, a self-employed haulage contractor. Mr Childs was Mr X's car to Mr Brett's house and invited him to see some goods at the factory. Mr B's car would not start so Mr Brett got into his car. Mr Childs was to give Mr Childs a towcar.

Mr Brett's son Terry, aged 10, came out of the house to help, and got into his father's car. Mr Mathew said, it drove away, and he did not get out. At the factory Terry was given a teddy bear by Mr Childs. His father was invited to sit in a chair and was shot by Mr B from behind the counter. Mr B shot Mr Brett again through the head. Mr Childs grabbed the boy and held him while Mr B put the gun to his head and shot him.

The bodies of Mr Brett and his son were dismembered in the factory, put in polythene bags, loaded on to a delivery van and taken to Mr Childs' flat for incineration.

Counsel said both Mr Sherwood and Mr Andrews were shot by Mr B.

Loans aid for food traders

By Hugh Clayton

The Government wants to make interest-free loans of £15m to food traders to cover bills that EEC authorities cannot afford to pay. The refusal of the European Parliament to accept a supplementary budget for the Community this year means that the EEC Commission has run out of cash to pay for the best and complicated apparatus of the common agricultural policy.

Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said in a parliamentary written answer yesterday that MPs were asked to approve a supplementary estimate. Until they did so, money for loans would be drawn from contingency funds.

Mr Walker acted after traders complained that the intervention price, which determines the common agricultural price in Britain, was not paying its bills on time. Loans will operate until the middle of this month, and will be subtracted from the next set of payments made from EEC funds.

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HOME NEWS

Cornish threat of rebellion against Labour HQ subsidies

From Trevor Fishlock
Falmouth

The trumpeted divorce between the so-called Labour rebels of Falmouth and Camborne, and the Labour Party, has turned out to be only a melodramatic gesture.

The Cornishmen voiced their fears about what they saw as Labour's leftward list, and said they would cease to be affiliated to the main party. In fact they could not pay the £240 affiliation fee for 1980 because their party is in debt. But the affiliation question was used to emphasise anxiety, and consequent storm has left the party confused and upset by charge and countercharge.

In any case it seems likely that the fee will be paid and the party will stay affiliated.

Certainly there is annoyance and concern in the local party about what is happening in the Labour Party as a whole. It is true that the Cornishmen have told Transport House that because of last week's vote they have no incentive to raise money. But according to senior members, the affiliation fee would have been paid in the usual way had the party been in funds, rather than £400 in debt.

The origin of the ballyhoo over the Falmouth rebellion lies not only in discontent but in a letter from the Falmouth party to Labour headquarters in London. The letter gave an account of the local party's management committee meeting on October 12 and said that members were unhappy about some of the events at Labour's annual conference.

The letter stated that left-wing views expressed on three

important resolutions did not reflect the views of the rank and file. It complained of intolerance shown to moderates and of "the growing power of the militant tendency and other Trotskyist groupings".

The letter concluded: "Our party is very low in funds and I have been asked to tell you that we will not be able to re-affiliate to the national party. The majority of our members felt that until the National Executive Committee decide to really represent the views of the rank and file we will not have any incentive to raise funds for membership. It is with great regret that we will not be able to pay our affiliation fees for the next year or two, but we feel this is the only way left to us to make our feelings known to the NEC and our local electorate."

The Labour Party headquarters says it did not receive the letter which was signed by Mr Kenneth Roberts, the Falmouth secretary. He said yesterday that a press statement he made last week had not mentioned the party's funds and had not quoted all of the letter.

"If we had had the money, we would have paid," he said. "By telling the NEC we did not have the incentive to raise money, I suppose we were trying to place an emphasis on our concern about the Labour party."

Failure to pay the affiliation fee does not bring dire consequences. About sixty of the 623 local Labour groups in Britain are not affiliated. Of five local Labour parties in Cornwall only one, the Falmouth and Camborne party is affiliated.

Equity wants £5m TV fund to encourage live shows

By Martin Huckerby
Theatre Reporter

The actors' union, Equity, has demanded in its annual pay claim that the independent television companies provide about £5m for a fund to support live entertainment and their employment for performers whose work is endangered by cuts and inflation.

Equity argues that independent television depends on a large pool of talented performers, mainly in live theatre, and that the companies ought to look after those performers as much as they do any other employees.

Equity wants the companies to pay money to the fund whenever they broadcast "bought-in" material. British and foreign films and programmes. It is asking £2,000 for each half-hour of these programmes shown on television.

The claim also seeks an increase from January 1 of 45 per cent in the minimum rates for actors on independent television from £139 a week to £200.

The demand for the fund was part of a general programme for action to safeguard jobs in the entertainment industry, approved yesterday by the council of Equity.

A full-time organizer has been appointed to coordinate the campaign against cuts in the arts. There will be pressure

for extra finance for the Theatres Investment Fund and a campaign against value-added tax on theatre seats. It is calling on the Arts Council to consider the television companies' proposals, which could put actors out of work.

Equity is particularly concerned about the independent television fund. It was not asked for a hand-out by Peter Plowright, the union's general secretary, said. It was right that the companies should provide the money for the collective benefit of performers who have done so much for television.

The union wants the fund to be run by a committee of representatives from the entertainment unions and the employers, including the television companies, film producers and theatre managers.

It expected that the fund would be used initially to plug gaps left by the cuts, saving jobs and other companies which otherwise might close. But in the long run it would want to use the money for new ventures in live entertainment, films and television.

Equity said a similar arrangement covering the fourth television channel would be a precondition of its members accepting work on the proposed channel.

Vehicle licensing transfer plan attacked

The Government's plan to reduce the number of local vehicle licensing offices with the loss of about 1,000 jobs was attacked yesterday by the British and Public Services Association.

Mr Norman Fowler, Minister of Transport, told the Commons last week that while he had decided to retain the existing vehicle licence duty, he was planning to transfer the licensing of vehicles to the Civil Service.

The CPSA said yesterday that motorists applying to local offices needed to deal with a wide range of difficulties.

Terrorism pact signed by Nine in Dublin

From Our Correspondent
Dublin

The long-awaited European agreement on the suppression of terrorism was signed in Dublin yesterday by all nine members of the EEC.

It is designed to ensure that all political terrorists in member countries stand trial because, even if extradition is refused on political grounds, the country where the accused is held is under an obligation to put him or her on trial.

It leaves the question of extradition to be decided by each individual country.

IRA killings bring staff crisis to Ulster jails

From Christopher Thomas
Belfast

The prison service in Northern Ireland faces a crisis over the repeated assassination of warders by the Provisional IRA, which says the attacks will continue until its imprisoned members get political status.

Mr William Wright, aged 38, a senior prison officer who was in charge of security at Crumlin jail, Belfast, was the eighth warder shot dead this year. He was killed as he arrived home from work in his car on Monday night.

Mr Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said last night: "This latest brutal killing, which is designed simply to keep alive a sordid propaganda campaign in support of people who have been sentenced by the courts for very serious crimes, can attract only total condemnation."

The Government was continuing as a matter of urgency to intensify measures to protect warders, he said. "It is my hope that the widespread reaction caused by the death of Mr Wright will be translated into the widest possible support from the community for those who have the task of bringing his killer or killers to justice."

Sixteen prison officers have so far been murdered and their deaths have had a serious impact on recruitment. Despite intensive advertising in the past few years, to about 2,500, this year's figures for acts of violence show a marked increase over 1978, with the exception of civilian deaths. The number of murdered soldiers is up, with 33 killed so far compared with 14 in 1978.

Contenders jostle for Fianna Fail leadership

From Our Own Correspondent

Mr Jack Lynch, Prime Minister of the Irish Republic, is expected to announce in the next few months whether he intends leading the Fianna Fail party into the next general election.

Contenders jostling for the leadership await an announcement, but Mr Lynch is refusing to reveal his intentions at this stage and says he is going ahead with plans for a Cabinet reshuffle soon after Christmas.

There is no obvious successor to Mr Lynch, but one of the front-runners would be Mr Charles Haughey, Minister for Health, who is regarded by many as a staunch Republican.

Another possible successor is Mr George Colley, Minister for Finance, who is also in the right of Mr Lynch. It was the rivalry between Mr Colley and Mr Haughey that gave Mr Lynch his chance to seize the leadership as a unifying candidate 13 years ago.

Mr Lynch may decide to fight the next election, which is due in the early summer of 1982 at the latest, if only to keep Mr Haughey out. The Prime Minister has promised to give any successor two years at least in the leadership before facing a general election, so a decision will have to be taken soon.

New Bill will give councils more freedom to determine their own priorities

Local authorities that overspend will have grant taken away

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

A tighter grip by the Government on the overall spending of local authorities and a relaxation of detailed controls on councils are envisaged in the Local Government, Planning and Land Bill, published yesterday.

The Government's declared intention to give more responsibility to local authorities with less control from central Government is matched by measures which will make it more difficult for councils to spend more on the provision of services than the Government believes justifiable.

First among the proposals is a change in the Government's grant system. A new block grant system, designed to relate each local authority's entitlement to grant more closely to its "standard expenditure", is to replace the present complicated two-part system. Domestic rate relief will remain.

The effect of the system will be that any authority spending significantly above the level laid down in a government assessment of its needs will have to bear an increasing proportion of the burden. Not

only will an authority receive no more grant, it will have grant taken away.

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, told a press conference that the present system provided a positive disincentive to economies because the more a council spent the more grant it received. "The change to the block grant is a direct disincentive to increase expenditure."

The system will be based on a "standard rate poundage" fixed by the Government, and the grant determined by relating it to the rateable value of the authority's area. That will be introduced as the rate support grant system in 1981-82.

The Bill also provides for arrangements to impose similar penalties on non-councils that substantially overspend in 1980-81. Another important provision is the introduction of controls over the capital expenditure of local authorities. At present, councils have to receive government permission for large projects.

can finance other projects by borrowing on the money market. Under the new proposals, the Government will set a limit for spending, but will

allow councils to spend their allocation how they please.

In addition, money assigned to a particular service may up to a point be transferred to another, and money may be transferred between a county council and a district council to finance projects.

It is intended that local authorities should have more freedom to determine their own spending priorities, and that we should reduce substantially the detailed project control that exists today," Mr Heseltine said.

He was just as determined to remove ministerial controls over local authorities on matters which they should decide for themselves and be answerable to their local electors. Accordingly, a large repeal of the Bill concerns the detailed project control that exists today, Mr Heseltine said.

That will apply to a restricted number of council houses, which will be subject to a new system of checks and balances. It is a proposal recommended in the Robinson report on council housing pay and allowances. Mr Heseltine said

"the key to strengthening local democracy."

The Bill will give power to ensure that essential information is freely available, including appropriate comparative information about the performance and efficiency of different authorities.

There is to be better accountability for local authority direct labour organisations, so that they are run as separate and accountable trading bodies in fair competition with the private sector and with a view to any return on the capital they employ. The Government is determined that direct labour organisations must be shown to be efficient or scrapped.

Councils are to continue to receive attendance allowances which will shortly be increased to a maximum of £13.28 a day. For the first time the Bill lays down that certain councillors should receive special responsibility payments.

That will apply to a restricted number of councillors, who will make them better full-time chairmen of councils and committees. It is a proposal recommended in the Robinson report on council housing pay and allowances. Mr Heseltine said

it should apply to between three and eight members.

In such a comprehensive Bill, one glaring but expected omission is a proposal to abolish domestic rating, to which the Conservatives have committed themselves. That has been desired for the time being, but instead the Bill makes some smaller changes to the rating system.

The rating revaluation due in 1982 is to be abolished, as is already known, and the Bill provides the substitution of powers to order revaluation when appropriate and if necessary for non-domestic property. It also provides for the extension of domestic rate relief to most mixed properties, and the extension of the right to pay rates by instalments, especially to small businesses.

Commenting on the Bill, Mr Noel Hopworth, director designate of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, said that the Government was shifting its grip on local government, relaxing some minor controls but establishing a focus on controls that would reach down to the level of individual authorities.

Register to identify building land hoards is proposed

By John Young
Planning Reporter

A government register of land owned by public authorities and "nationalized" industries, including Crown land, is proposed in the Local Government, Planning and Land Bill, published yesterday.

The register is intended to identify land which is not being used, or is being insufficiently used, for the purposes of the authority that owns it.

Ministers hope that it will bring pressure to bear on councils which accumulated land for possible future housing needs, road schemes and so on, and on statutory undertakers such as British Rail, and the Gas Boards, which frequently hoard land.

Land and land use were crucial to the whole question of stimulating the economy, Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, said yesterday. In Liverpool alone there were more than 1,000 acres of derelict land, most of

which was owned by the public sector.

The Bill provides for copies of the register to be available for public inspection at council offices, and for the information it contains to be supplied on request. In both cases the council will be empowered to charge a reasonable fee.

The Government will be enabled to demand information from public bodies about their land holdings. It will have power to direct them to dispose of any or all of their land, subject to their being entitled to know why they should not do so.

Another clause in the Bill, also aimed at releasing more land for development, empowers the Government to direct local authorities to make assessments of all land available and suitable for residential purposes. Its powers to make grants for land reclamation and improvement will also be extended.

structure plans to be approved.

That is certain to be warmly welcomed by the building industry, which has complained for years of the present protracted procedure. It is likely to make a more focused view of the planning functions of county and district authorities, the Bill seems likely to be a success as much as to enlighten.

In broad terms, the intention appears to be that except in the case of mineral workings or land lying within a national park, the district council should be assumed to have jurisdiction and need refer to the county council only what it considers to be a "county matter".

The Bill will enable the Government to introduce fees for planning applications and for appeals against refusals. The scale of the fees will be determined by a separate order, which may allow for remissions or refunds in certain circumstances.

which took the last Government

months to draft and was intended to be a single-stage process, is replaced in a single sentence. The only survivor is the Land Authority for Wales, which is to continue with some modified powers.

It will no longer, for example, be able to specify the detailed special procedures to be followed by public inquiries into compulsory purchase orders.

Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales, said yesterday that he did not expect the authority to extend its land-grabbing activities, but to stabilize them at about present levels.

innocuous-sounding sentence

simply that the Secretary of State may direct corporations to pay to him specified sums on a specific date. At the same time, however, the corporations' borrowing limits are to be increased.

Paradoxically, however, several pages of the Bill devoted to the Government proposals to establish urban development corporations regenerate run-down areas.

Heseltine has stated his intention to establish corporations for the London and Liverpool docklands.

Mr David Hall, director of the Town and Country Planning Association, last night described the Bill as a "curate's egg".

The Government appeared to be doing some right things, the wrong reasons, and of wrong things for the right reasons, and to be moving more by political dogma than by any understanding of planning, development or towns, he said.

Mr Dell seeks 'outsider' ministers

By Peter Hennessy

Mr Edmund Dell, chairman of the Guinness Peat Group and Secretary of State for Trade from 1976 to 1978, called last night for ministers to be appointed from outside Parliament. The present system produced "too many inadequate ministers", he declared.

The suggestion was part of a wide-ranging attack on what Mr Dell regards as the damaging myth of collective ministerial responsibility, delivered during a Royal Institute of Public Administration lecture in London. There existed outside Parliament, he said, "a group of people who carry more credibility with significant sections of opinion than almost anyone inside the House of Commons".



Mr Edmund Dell: "Too many inadequate ministers."

Mr Dell contended that ministers appointed by the Prime Minister from outside Parliament should be allowed to speak in the Commons. He said:

It would be easier for some outside MPs to join the Cabinet, starting perhaps with responsibility for some of the more technical departments. If they did not thereby have to come under the scrutiny of the House, I must confess that the myth of collective responsibility is not the main political obstacle to its value as a development. Rather, it is the jealousy and inflexibility of the House of Commons which, contrary to the practice of many other parliaments, will not allow a "stranger" to address it.

The areas in which a Prime Minister should be strengthened

included his or her acting "as an exponent of British and European interests in the European Council in the control of public expenditure, and in supporting the government's position against the damaging compromises which tend to flow from the procedures of collective responsibility."

He suggested that stronger prime ministerial control within government could be balanced by a system of more effective constitutional controls from without. He mentioned more open government, of which collective responsibility was an enemy, electoral reform, and an effective system of direct commissioners.

"What is needed in British government is a stronger centre, and hence a stronger central control on matters such as the level of public expenditure. This should be combined with a system of ministerial responsibility on those matters falling within the responsibility of a single department where the interests of other ministers are marginal or simply political."

Drawing on his experience of protracted Cabinet debates before the securing of a loan from the International Monetary Fund in the autumn of 1978, Mr Dell concluded that a system of government was tested by times of crisis. In such moments collective responsibility "is a recipe for delay, deliberate indiscretions, hesitations and eventually humiliation."

10-year-ban on Mr Revie right FA official says

By Craig Sefton

Mr Robert Strachan, vice chairman of the Football Association's disciplinary committee, told the High Court yesterday that the manner of Mr Don Revie's departure as England manager had set "a very bad example" in a game where the preservation of standards was important.

Mr Strachan, giving evidence on the sixth day of the Football Association's 10-year-ban on his taking part in domestic football, said he did not think the ban was too long in the circumstances. "It was the correct decision," he said. "One of the biggest problems we have is the upholding of the law and general moral principles within the game. There are some 30,000 football clubs affiliated to the FA and one is constantly aware of people asking for illegal payments and that sort of thing. I would have thought one would have expected a better example from the manager of England."

It was a very bad thing when Mr Revie broke his contract and asked for a £5,000 golden handshake. "It was asking for the penny and the bun," he said. It would have been different if Mr Revie had been asked to resign.

Mr Strachan said that after Mr Revie's departure for the United Arab Emirates and that could be seen as the public condoning the FA's action. It could be seen as a vote of confidence.

Earlier, Sir Harold Thompson, chairman of the FA, completing his evidence, said the style of Mr Ron Greenwood, the new England manager, was a reference from that of Mr Revie. Since Mr Greenwood had been manager he had known him more closely than he knew Mr Revie. He had seen a great amount of thinking and hard work and gone into finding a successor.

Asked whether there was more scope for individuality and guile among England players who had been dubbed "robots" and "donkeys" under Mr Revie, Sir Harold said that recently the way the players had conducted themselves on and off the field had been "absolutely first rate".

Cabinet Office will vet Blunt answers

By Stewart Tisdler

The answers to questions from journalists for Prof Blunt, the fourth man in Burgess, Maclean, Philby and Tabor, will be vetted by the Cabinet Office for secret breaches.

Yesterday Mr Michael R. Stein, Professor Blunt's spokesman, said that it might take time before answers could be released. The same was true of Professor Blunt's comments on reports that his contact with Russians could have been former Soviet diplomat living in Moscow.

Mr Robin Stearns has been in touch with Sir Robert Strong, Secretary to the Cabinet, over the contact, as Mr Ernest Henry, a spokesman for the professor, made before the end of the week, his solicitor said.

A statement will have drawn up and submitted to the Cabinet Office, which will decide what Professor Blunt says. Mr Ernest said he had been in the Embassy in London from 1944, under another name, and recalled in 1951 shortly after Burgess and Maclean fled.

The outcome of the C. Office's deliberations on the case may still be sensitive for many years after Prof Blunt's connections with Russians may well influence decision on an autobiography. A number of publishers made approaches.

Supporter hel on dart chag

A Nottingham Forest

porter appeared before a human rights judge yesterday, accused of maliciously injuring Pat Jennings, the goalkeeper, by throwing which struck in his left arm.

Clifford Marriott, a 36-year-old bricklayer, was remanded in custody until this morning.

TV computer to educate and amuse viewers

By Kenneth Gossling
Arts Reporter

The home leisure industry moved nearer to turning the living room into a computer centre, catering for ever more needs in entertainment and information, with the announcement yesterday of Teletext 2, a disposable Oracle, independent television's data broadcasting system.

At no charge at all (except the initial £50 to add it to a standard teletext receiver) the viewer will get a service which will educate him, calculate his mortgage, give him games to play, let him know his social security entitlements or even help to detect credit card fraud.

It was described at a press conference as "a viable and cost-effective method of bringing simple-to-use computing power to the public and to extend teletext to meet the needs of the 80s".

The viewer will not have to leave his armchair to get the many services when Teletext

ware is in general use in a few years. A remote-control pad will be used.

Mr Geoffrey Hughes, the systems chief executive, announced that by the end of this year there would be 35,000 sets in use. He forecast a £10,000 by the end of 1980 and a million by 1984.

Ultimately most independent television regions will have their own Oracle services, providing about 200 pages of local news, weather, sports results and general information.

The first of those, in the Westward area, is expected to be working early next summer. Advertising pages, free until the Home Office approves a rate card, will become an important part of the service.

It is intended to reduce to 10 seconds from 30 seconds the waiting time it takes before a page appears on the screen.

Two other developments announced yesterday will enable mariners uncertain of the location of danger spots in the English Channel, to check them, and to benefit deaf viewers who desire subtitles on pre-recorded programmes.

Judge rules action by doctors to be not relevant

A murder trial jury was told

by a judge at Leeds Crown Court yesterday that doctors' action in turning off a life support machine was not relevant to the trial.

His ruling came after two hours of legal argument in the jury's absence.

Anthony Steel, aged 23, a gardener, of Cobden Street, Bradford, had pleaded not guilty to the murder of Miss Carole Wilkinson, aged 28, a bakery worker, of Ranelagh Avenue, Bradford.

Mr Harry Ognall, QC, prosecuting, had said that Miss Wilkinson had been found to work on October 10, 1977, was violently assaulted by Mr Steel, suffering severe head injuries.

At Bradford Royal Infirmary she was put on a mechanical ventilator. After consultations between medical experts, it was decided to turn her off on October 12, and Miss Wilkinson was pronounced dead.

Mr Justice Boreham told the jury that Mr Wilfred Street, QC, for the defence, had contended that the doctors' action was material and relevant. "I have ruled that it is not relevant," he said.

Ex-mayor quits Labour

He opposes the closed shop,

which he says, are the unjust, and disagrees with the TUC policy on free collective bargaining, which he describes as a recipe for disaster.

Mr John Wilson, a former Labour mayor, of Lichfield parliamentary candidate and leading councillor, has resigned from the Labour Party after more than 30 years and plans to join the Liberals.

Mr Wilson, who was elected mayor in 1974, had been a Labour councillor for 30 years.

He said he was a former Labour councillor for 30 years, but he was not a member of the party. He was a member of the party, but he was not a member of the party.

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BRANIFF AIRWAYS

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OLYMPIA LONDON 2-6 JAN. 1980

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16 Star players compete every day (except final)

McEnroe - Fleming 1979 Champions

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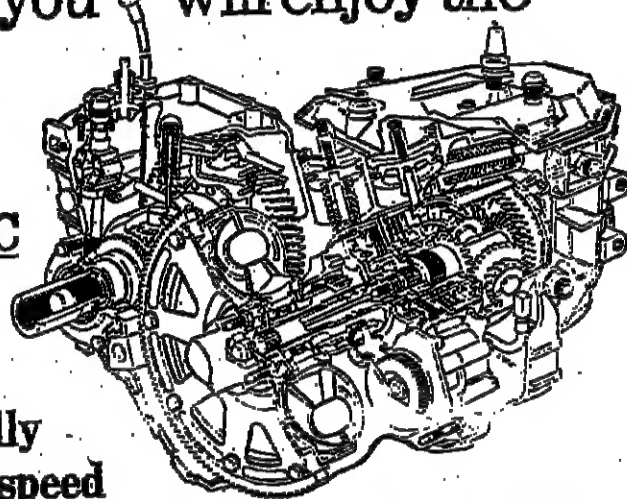
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WEST EUROPE

East-West
German
Commitment
Next YearPatrick Clough
Dec 4

Helmut Schmidt, the German Chancellor, said today that he will President Brezhnev and Erich Honecker, the East German leader, some time next year.

News was seen here as a sign of a massive and threatening propaganda campaign against West Germany over the sinking of a Soviet submarine in the North Sea. The East German Government is anxious to maintain, or even better, relations with the Soviet Union.

Germany has been subjected to intense pressure from the Soviet Union on the missile issue. The East German Government has threatened to withdraw its troops from the German Democratic Republic if the West does not agree to a ban on nuclear weapons in Europe.

Schmidt has long been reluctant to meet Erich Honecker when he felt the East German leader was propitiating the Soviet Union. The Chancellor has been seen as a sign that the East German Government has come to the fact that the missile issue is unavoidable.

Nevertheless, West German leaders are to be made meeting of Warsaw Pact leaders in East Germany next week and when the Council meets on December 12 and 13.

The indication that the East German leader is not as hard as he has been seen by Soviet journalists, officials to explain that the East German Government has been mismanaged and the version was much less convincing.

Schmidt and Herr Erich Honecker, the German Foreign Minister, insisted that he did not want negotiations with them, and have expressed confidence that they will take place after a decision has been made.

Mr. Herr Schmidt was to deal with dissenters within the party who are unhappy with his policy of firmness in the deployment of missiles, and then, while being manufactured, with the Soviet about limiting their left-wingers in the Democratic Party conference would rather not say anything on their numbers.

Mr. Schmidt's decision on deployment made, Mr. Schmidt firmly insisted that he support him both on his disputed emergency policy. As Chancellor, he could not practice policies for searching his conscience felt to be wrong, he could not take responsibility for.

Dutch envoy recalled
from France in
Rhine pollution disputeFrom Robert Schull
Amsterdam, Dec 4

In a move of diplomatic displeasure the Dutch Government today recalled its ambassador to France, Jonkheer Johan de Ruyter, the Ambassador was called back for consultations after the French Government had decided not to submit a convention against the pollution of the Rhine to the National Assembly for ratification.

The convention was signed in Bonn in 1976 between France, Switzerland, Luxembourg, West Germany and the Netherlands. It provided for an end to the practice of dumping salt from the French state-owned potash mines in Alsace into the river.

According to the convention, France had to store the salt on its own territory. The Netherlands promised nearly £10m towards the installation of underground storage space.

Some 20 million tonnes of salt pass through Holland every day as the Rhine makes its way to the North Sea. The 50,000 tonnes of salt from the Alsace mines are considered to be the most harmful. For Holland the Rhine is a source of drinking water as well as water for irrigation in periods of drought.

Money to be repaid: France is to reimburse West Germany, Switzerland, the Netherlands, which have so far jointly paid 92m francs (£10.2m) towards the work of cleaning up the river. Luxembourg, the other

signatory, has not paid anything (Ian Murray writes from Paris).

The four other countries ratified the agreement a year ago and President Giscard d'Estaing said in a television broadcast during his last summit meeting in West Germany two months ago that as France had signed the agreement it would be ratified.

Forty per cent of the Rhine's 18 million tonnes of salt pollution each year are poured into the river from the works of the Alsace Potash mines. The Bonn convention wanted the mines to reduce its salt waste input into the Rhine from 130 kilograms (286lb) a second to 70 kilograms (154lb) a second by pumping brine a mile underground.

This scheme ran into strong local opposition in Alsace, largely from farmers who believed that this would have a long-term effect on the soil. The ratification of the convention has in consequence been put off repeatedly despite repeated requests from the Dutch Government to hurry things up.

The French decision was hailed as a victory by Gaullist members of the National Assembly, who have campaigned against "the pollution of the school of the Upper Rhine." Trade union spokesmen, however, fear that there may now be a danger of the potash mines being obliged to reduce its output in order to reduce the amount of pollution poured into the river. They are urging the Government to allow the company to market its salt rather than pour it away.

In refusing to ratify the convention, France has also claimed that potash mining in the area has only a limited future.

Madrid adopts emergency
plan to curb contaminationFrom Harry Debelius
Madrid, Dec 4

An emergency plan to reduce air pollution went into effect here today, following one of the smoggiest weeks on record in the capital.

The measures, contained in an order issued by the provincial government, include: A ban on the use of central heating except between 2 pm and 10 pm; a crackdown on illegal parking, in an attempt to discourage the use of private cars; an obligation to deliver most merchandise before 9.30 am; and strict enforcement of regulations which penalise excessive contamination from vehicle exhausts.

The other measures are closer inspections in industry to enforce legislation on contamination and prohibition of burning leaves or other solid wastes. The order went into effect at midnight last night and will be enforced for 45 days. Strict penalties are in store for violators.

A fine of 5,000 pesetas (£34) and the possible loss of an offender's driving permit for three months for double-parking or parking in a bus lane; and a fine of 25,000 pesetas (£172) for using central heating during prohibited hours.

Elsewhere in Spain, as in Madrid, sunny windless weather continued to favour the build-up of air pollution. The concentration of sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere in the northern industrial city of Bilbao rose to 1,043 micrograms per cubic metre between 4 pm and 5 pm yesterday, nearly seven times the average daily maximum of 150 micrograms recommended by the World Health Organization.

Informed sources told The Times that the Ministry of Health confidentially urged the government several months ago to revise legislation on contamination and to lower the legal levels of contaminants in the air.

Iceland's poll
results
favour centre

Reykjavik, Dec 4.—Final results in Iceland's general election published today showed significant gains for the centre Progressive Party but the formation of a new government appeared to have run into difficulty.

The Progressives who shared power until October in a left-wing coalition gained five seats giving them a total of 17 in the 60-member thing (Parliament). An expected swing towards the right-wing Independence Party largely failed to materialize but with 21 seats, a gain of one, it remained the largest grouping in the Althing.

Mr Benedikt Groendal, the caretaker Prime Minister, was expected to visit President Kristján Eldjárn later today to offer his resignation.

Mr Steingrímur Hermannsson, a leader of the Progressive Party, said he wanted to continue the coalition with the Social Democrats and the Communists.

But both those parties lost seats in the election and their leaders expressed doubts today about reviving the alliance.

The original coalition, formed in September, 1976, collapsed two months ago when the Social Democrats withdrew because of the Government's failure to deal with inflation, now running at a rate of 85 per cent.

Mr Geir Halgrímsson, the leader of the Independent Party, said he was disappointed by the results. His party had campaigned on a platform of all-out war on inflation but the results suggested that the voters feared the party's proposed measures would prove too harsh.

The final results were as follows: Independence Party 21 seats (20 in the 1976 election), Progressive Party 17 (12), Social Democrats 10 (14), Communists 11 (14). One breakaway member of the Independence Party was elected.—Reuter.

New centre for rebel churchman
Ecône, Switzerland, Dec 4.—Mr Marcel Lefebvre, the archbishop who defied the Vatican over liturgical reforms has moved his headquarters to a village near Basel. He founded his first traditionalist seminary here nine years ago and was suspended from all priestly duties in 1976.—Reuter.



Unsuccessful Brigitte Keeping up her campaign against the animal experimenters Brigitte Bardot, the actress, outside a Marseilles court yesterday with a lawyer for the French League against Vivisection. Their much-publicised case against Professor Henri Searles was thrown out, however, by the magistrates, our Paris Correspondent writes, the court ruling that

Second letter on Bokassa diamond 'gift'

From Ian Murray
Paris, Dec 4

The French satirical weekly, *Le Canard Enchaîné*, is publishing a key document in its issue this week concerning the gift of a spray of diamonds it is seeking to prove was made to President Giscard d'Estaing by the former Emperor Bokassa of Central Africa.

The journal earlier published a 1973 letter apparently from Mr Bokassa to the Comptoir National du Diamant de L'Est (the state diamond bureau) ordering that the spray be delivered to M Giscard d'Estaing, who was then Minister of Finance.

The new document, which again bears the name of

Enchaîné alleges to be Mr Bokassa's signature, is another letter to the bureau and dated July 11, 1974. This letter asks for information about the state of the order for the "spray" being prepared for H Giscard d'Estaing, who by that time had been elected President.

According to the magazine these sprays were handed over to the President during a visit by Mr Bokassa to France in September, 1974. A list of diamonds presents supposedly made by Mr Bokassa to the President is included in the issue.

During his interview on French television last week President Giscard d'Estaing was asked about the supposed gift

of diamonds. He replied: "One must allow base things to die in their own poison." Elysée parcel: *Le Canard Enchaîné* said that a Paris-based charity, Missions Africaines, was sent a parcel of African jewellery by the Elysée 11 days before the interview. A monk who the magazine said had received the gift, confirmed the report in a telephone conversation with Reuters.

The magazine said an Elysée messenger delivered a packet containing two gold necklaces, one silver necklace and an ivory bracelet with a gold clasp. The gift was accompanied by a visiting card carrying the name of the President's wife, Anne-Aymone.—Reuter.

WEU assembly resists
Community arms roleFrom Charles Hargrove
Paris, Dec 4

A British report on the effects of Middle East events on Western European security was discussed today by delegates from Britain and its six partners in the Western European Union Assembly.

In Afghanistan, Soviet penetration was much more serious than many people in the West recognized, the report said. Its author, Sir Frederic Bennet, applauded the Camp David accord between Israel and Egypt, but said the Palestinians must be allowed to negotiate for themselves.

Delegates rejected the suggestion that the EEC acquire a role in the European arms industry. The Assembly called upon all countries of the world to ban arms shipments to Iran. The ban, proposed by Sir Frederic, Conservative leader of the British delegation to the Assembly, was originally to cover only member countries of the WEU. But leaders of all delegations asked him to widen its scope.

"Not even Hitler during the last war went so far as to interfere with the sanctity of diplomatic relations", Sir Frederic emphasized in a speech introducing his report on Western European security and the Middle East. "The unlawful detention of American citizens inside and outside the American Embassy in Tehran is in total breach of a convention stretching back over centuries."

The revolution in Iran has turned sour, he said, and the worsening situation now was a threat not only to the economic stability of Europe, but also to Western security.

In Afghanistan, the huge number of refugees crossing into Pakistan—the latest estimates were 300,000—was a "new element of misery caused, it must be said, by the Soviet Union". Russia was making a determined attempt "to turn Afghanistan into a new satellite with the ultimate aim of penetrating Pakistan. There is a very great threat of the collapse of Pakistan". Turning to the Middle East, Sir Frederic said one had to apply the Camp David agreement as an end to the military conflict between Egypt and Israel. But "it is folly to imagine that this agreement has in any way settled the burning issue of the future of the Palestinian people. They have established themselves in considerable positions of influence in society right through the Arab world and the Gulf States". The Palestinians must decide their future themselves and not through diplomatic negotiations by foreign powers, he said. They wanted a homeland, even if, like the Jews, many of them did not wish to live there. And their voice must be heard.

Sir Frederic's report provoked a stream of amendments from British Labour members, largely watering it down to avoid any impression of denigrating the Camp David settlement and undue emphasis on the Palestinian case. Most of them were accepted.

The French delegation had the great satisfaction yesterday of seeing the Assembly on the initiative of Mr Fred Mucy, the former Labour Defence Minister, all references to "restructuring of the European arms industry under the aegis of the European Community". This had been condemned as in breach of the WEU and Rome treaties which make defence the prerogative of the Mr Mucy said: "Apart from having plenty of problems to deal with now, the European Commission does not and cannot, without a fundamental change in its functions, have competence to play a special part in arms procurement." It did not have the technical and military expertise, or the funds.

The specific role of the WEU Assembly as "the sole parliamentary forum in which representatives of member states were called upon to debate problems of security" was again emphasized this morning by M Pierre Bernard-Raymond, Minister of State in the French Foreign Ministry. He said that, though 25 years old this year, "the WEU has not aged".

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ERSEAS

Former Korean CIA chief's trial for murder is suspended

By Hazelhurst
Dec 4

Former members of Korea's Central Intelligence Agency (KCIA) appeared in court today in a closely guarded military court in Seoul today, with the bizarre assassination of President Park Chung Hee and five of his aides at a dinner party on October 26.

The defendants include Kim Jong Il, the former head of the KCIA, who is alleged to have ordered the assassination of President Park and of his bodyguard with a bullet to the back of the head at a dinner party on October 26. Other sides and bodyguards were killed in the shooting in the dining room and in the bathroom. Kim Jong Il, who is alleged to have ordered the assassination, is alleged to have said: "I will do it."

ent Park's chief secretary, Mr Kim Jong Il, was also arrested today. The defendants have been charged with murder and attempted murder and one of them has been charged with attempted murder.

unexpected move the case over by General Son, decided to suspend the trial after defence lawyers claimed that civilians should be tried by a military court on offences which were committed before martial law was declared on October 27.

the trial to be transferred to a civilian court. A military tribunal suspended the hearing for a period until the court gives a ruling on the demand for a trial.

Mr Kim Jong Il, aged 53, the principal accused appeared in court today. He has been charged with murder with intent to commit sedition and attempted sedition. Mr Kim Jong Il has been similarly charged.

Both were close confidants and advisers of President Park and until the assassination of South Koreans had no hint of a rift within the hierarchy. According to the Government's version of the incident, Mr Kim Jong Il left the dinner party in a dining room within the palace grounds and returned with a revolver after President Park and his close adviser and chief bodyguard, Mr Cha Chi Chol, had chastised the head of the KCIA over his handling of student riots in Pusan and Masan in October.

Apparently, Mr Cha, a hard-liner, claimed that the student riots had erupted because the KCIA had refused to take a tough line. Mr Kim was later arrested by General Chung Sung Wai, joint chief of staff at the Ministry of Defence. Most areas of South Korea were placed under martial law and Mr Choi Kyu-Hah, the Prime Minister, was named acting President under the provisions of the constitution.

During the past three weeks the former head of the KCIA has been the scene of the assassination. The new South Korean leader has already taken steps to introduce a liberal form of government and constitution. President Choi is expected to be installed as interim head of state on Thursday when the national conference for unification convenes to elect a new executive leader. But President Choi has already promised to amend the constitution and ensure that the President is elected by direct universal vote.

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Nato's missile decision now seen to be inevitable

Moscow looks to new arms talks

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, Dec 4

Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, arrived in East Berlin today amid expectations that the special conference of Warsaw Pact foreign ministers which begins tomorrow will make a last-minute appeal to Nato not to decide next week to deploy new American medium-range missiles in Western Europe.

Mr Gromyko is expected to attend a public ceremony marking the departure of the first batch of 20,000 Soviet soldiers from East Germany. Their withdrawal was promised in President Brezhnev's Berlin speech on October 6 which marked the opening of the Soviet campaign to ward off Nato's modernization of its theatre nuclear force.

There is growing evidence that the terms of this offer were decided at the highest level within the Soviet leadership, and that it came as a surprise to many senior officials. Questions of disarmament are confined to a tightly-knit group in which Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, deputy Defence Minister and Chief of General Staff, plays a leading role.

Nato had long been expecting some Soviet initiative in response to its modernization plans and there was some surprise that the Berlin offer came so late. But the Russians were convinced in their timing by the signing of the Salt 2 Treaty. Moscow had to allow time for

the ratification process in the American Senate to begin before throwing in the added complications of the present missile campaign.

Marshal Ogarkov played a leading role in the Salt talks, and he and the political leadership may have decided, over the objections within the Soviet military, that the offer could not be delayed any longer.

In spite of their propaganda barrage against the Pershing 2 and Cruise missiles, the Russians believe the decision to deploy them is a foregone conclusion. Their main concern now is to get the best possible negotiating offer out of Nato when it makes the decision.

The Russians are registering their objections for the record and laying out their base for future talks. Such talks could not take place immediately: Nato's decision on December 12, will inevitably involve a certain loss of political face by Moscow. Tough statements can be expected, and the Russians could make good their threat to start deploying their SS20 missiles more quickly.

The initiative for follow-up talks would have to come from the Americans. It would then be possible for the Russians—perhaps in the spring—to react on the basis of American proposals, which they could publicly say they would accept.

The Russians expect Western leaders to be able to distinguish between what they say for propaganda reasons and what they say as a basis for negotiation. Essentially the Russians would like to confine talks on theatre nuclear forces to the Americans. They feel it would be easier to deal on a bilateral basis, and they could leave it to the Americans to obtain their Nato allies' approval.

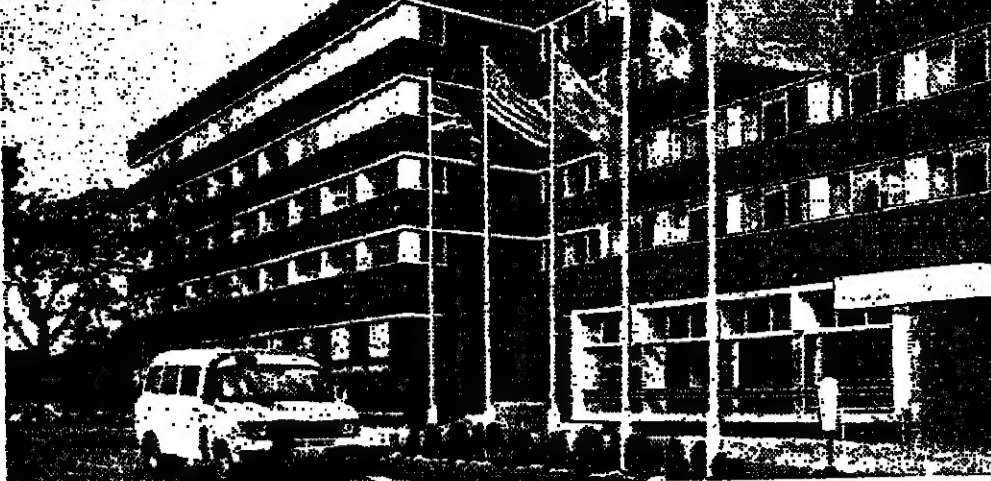
The Russians do understand Western fears of the SS20, of which about 120 have now been deployed. But there are indications that the deployment of these missiles was the price the Soviet leadership had to pay to persuade military leaders to go along with the Salt 2 agreement as the technicians were worried that theatre nuclear forces were not included in the Salt package.

For their part the Russians are far more worried about the Cruise missiles than about the Pershings. They have not yet perfected the Cruise technology. Barring a freeze on all further deployment of weapons systems, which does not now seem likely, the Russians might be receptive therefore to Nato's wish to trade off the Pershing and Cruise missiles, and maybe some aircraft, for the SS20 and the Backfire bomber.

One thing that could upset all future Soviet interest in arms control talks is a rejection by the Senate of the Salt 2 treaty. That might persuade present and future Soviet leadership that it was not worth talking about arms limitation if agreements could not be enforced on the American side.

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Men try to fight

in Dec 4.—An African aimed at hitting the over the Western was opened today by William Tolbert of chairman of the Organisation of African Unity.

meeting was less than Tolbert had hoped the summited to. It was brought together the men—the leaders of the Organisation of African Unity.

the meeting will not be objective. Mauritania dropped a war over the phos- Western Sahara is year, Morocco an- entire territory and p its fight against the guerrillas.

nt Tolbert said there "a disastrous escalation conflict" and that generated growing con- sider.

why Vietnam would take with one hand what they are giving with the other. He added that all these positive aspects were confirmed today in a radio and television interview by Mr John Saunders, Unicef's representative in Phnom Penh.

M Danois is expected to return to Bangkok at the weekend. For the third consecutive day, the Thai Army today prevented food and water from getting through to the 200,000 Kampuchean in the Khmer Rouge (anti-communist "Free Khmer") camp near the Thai border.

Those running the camp, 18 miles north of the Thai border town of Aranyaprathet, have refused to allow Kampuchean to go to the temporary transit centre recently opened at Khao I-Dang, some six miles inside Thailand.

A member of an international relief organisation said today there was already a shortage of water in the camp. —Agence France-Presse.

and photographed 700 of Vietnamese rice Kampuchean civilian on and have seen it distributed. I don't see

childhood' for millions working young in India

ne of children in India dig long hours for little dangerous conditions, g to a report published

port, by the 140-year- Slavery Society, says lden aged 5 to 14 are in mining, brickmak- construction and match turing, often in condi- at damage their health. ociety, which has con- status with the United Economic and Social

says India has the largest child labour with about 16,500,000 children. hood is a term which apply to many India- today. They go from g clothes straight into

Child Labour in India, uta Banerjee, a journa- ts a survey of child in Bombay's con- d building industry aid children were work- inside their parents

digging earth, carrying head- loads of mud and mortar, pre- paring the mortar, removing the debris, straightening, cut- ting, bending and shouldering iron rods".

An earlier pilot study of three cities in south India among children employed as domestic servants, and co- workers, mechanics, found that 31 per cent of them worked 10 to 11 hours a day, while another 22 per cent worked 12 to 13 hours.

The report says that in the match industry, where con- ditions are hazardous, 40 to 45 per cent of the workforce are children, with girls outnumber- ing boys three to one.

The society has submitted short-term recommendations to the Indian Government. These include stricter imple- mentation of existing laws, more union involvement in sectors where children are employed, strict enforcement of the Minimum Wages Act and more vocational training in schools.

Diplomats argue as boat people reach Australia

Darwin, Dec 4.—Some 150 Vietnamese rescued from a sinking fishing boat were brought here today to find themselves at the centre of a wrangle between Britain and Australia.

The refugees were picked up on Thursday by a British oil tanker after a 22-day voyage just south of the Equator between Sumatra and Borneo.

Australia told Britain they were the responsibility of the nation under whose flag the rescue vessel was sailing, but the British High Commission in Canberra replied that the country of the first port of call should let them land.

Australia had today not decided whether the refugees, including 19 children aged under five would be allowed to stay.

Immigration officials were meanwhile interviewing Captain Norman Sloan, the master of the Shell tanker, Emalia, to obtain details of the rescue. The vessel will remain off- shore pending a decision on the refugees' future by Mr Michael Mackellar, the Immigration Minister. —Agence France-Presse and Reuters.

why Vietnam would take with one hand what they are giving with the other. He added that all these positive aspects were confirmed today in a radio and television interview by Mr John Saunders, Unicef's representative in Phnom Penh.

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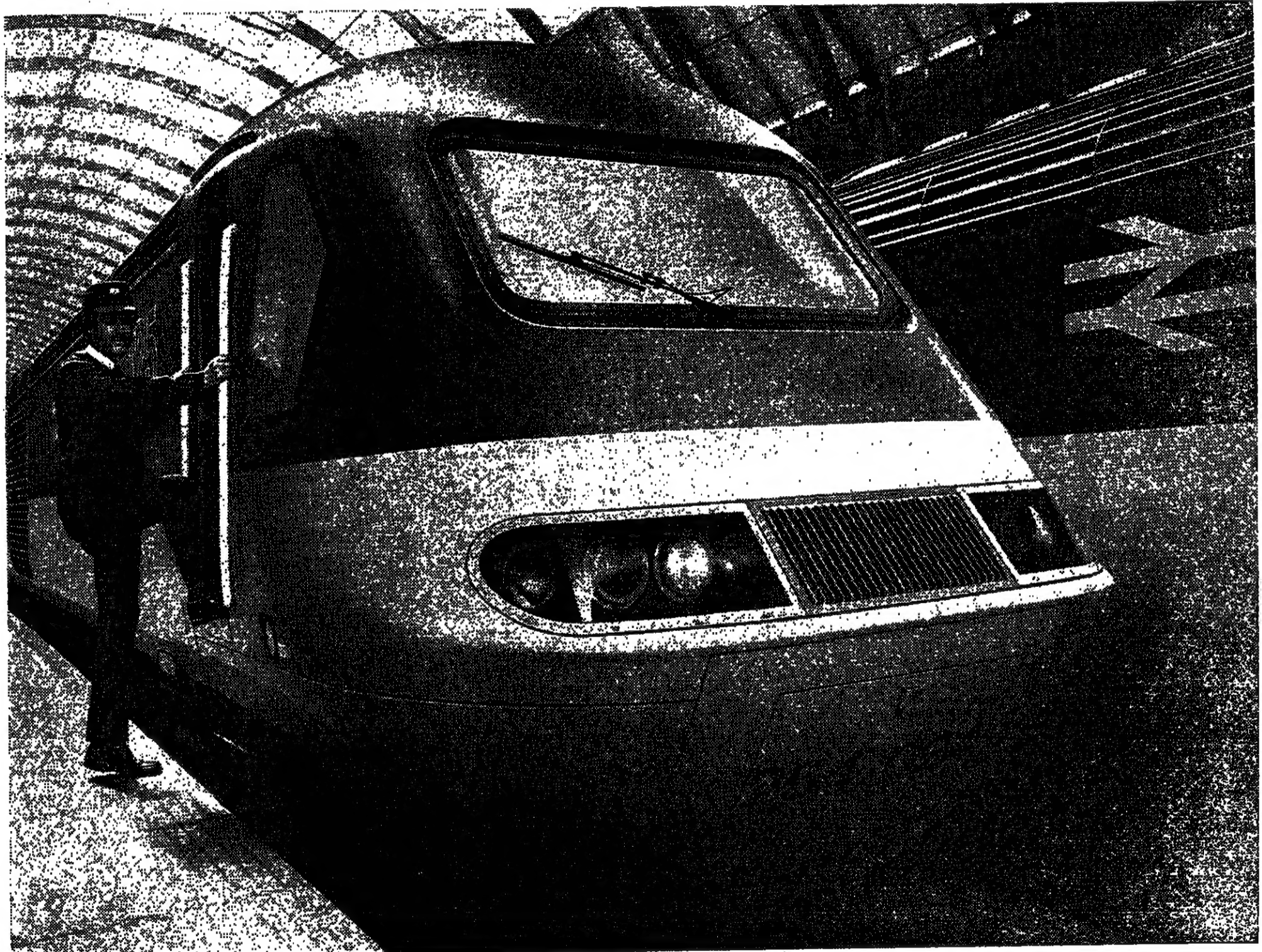
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digging earth, carrying head- loads of mud and mortar, pre- paring the mortar, removing the debris, straightening, cut- ting, bending and shouldering iron rods".

An earlier pilot study of three cities in south India among children employed as domestic servants, and co- workers, mechanics, found that 31 per cent of them worked 10 to 11 hours a day, while another 22 per cent worked 12 to 13 hours.

The report says that in the match industry, where con- ditions are hazardous, 40 to 45 per cent of the workforce are children, with girls outnumber- ing boys three to one.

The society has submitted short-term recommendations to the Indian Government. These include stricter imple- mentation of existing laws, more union involvement in sectors where children are employed, strict enforcement of the Minimum Wages Act and more vocational training in schools.



It's more businesslike to be chauffeur driven.

Driving yourself to business meetings is one certain way to drive yourself round the bend.

Driver fatigue, stress and strain can all play their part in reducing your effectiveness; and when a meeting is important enough to travel to, it's important you're at your best.

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Inter-City trains will take you to your meeting quickly and comfortably, so you arrive at your destination in better shape.

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David Spanier, the Diplomatic Correspondent, assesses the gamble taken by Lord Carrington

Riding on the Rhodesian knife-edge

Lord Carrington is not a man afraid of taking decisions. His summary, right or wrong, action as chairman of the London conference on Rhodesia to cut off the talks at Lancaster House and to go for a settlement come what may, with the agreement of the Patriotic Front or without it, is a very big decision.

If it works, it will be greeted as a master stroke of diplomacy. If it fails, as the Patriotic Front leaders warned yesterday, it will be judged by many people, not only in Africa, as a most reckless gamble.

From the start of the conference, Lord Carrington was determined to "lance the boil". This time, the Rhodesian problem was going to be cleared up. Though the odds were not good, he found to start with a negotiating technique which paid off brilliantly. Britain would judge what was practical

(a favourite word) and lay down the prescribed solution. The Salisbury delegation saw great advantages in accepting the British line. The Patriotic Front, though it disliked what was happening, was squeezed between its backers on one side, and the British threat to cut it alone on the other. Accordingly Lord Carrington first got the constitution agreed and then the arrangements for elections.

So far so good. But this very success may have contained the seed of its own failure. For the Patriotic Front became extremely resentful at what it saw as Lord Carrington's high-handed tactics. Mr Nkomo and Mr Mugabe, grey more and more determined to be humiliated if they felt bitter and contemptuous of all the plaudits heaped on Lord Carrington's success, it was understandable. For their deep mistrust of

British motives was compounded by a more personal resentment of the chairman's style.

It would be wrong, of course, to attribute the crisis yesterday, if it is a breakdown, to personal factors. But they have played a part. Consider the so-called "terrorists": many of them are men with university degrees or doctorates of law acquired in long years in prison; they are imbued with passionate nationalism, reinforced by political science; though outsiders, they are widely travelled.

The Foreign Secretary, "the good Lord", as they so scornfully refer to him, is judged as an aristocrat who cannot by definition be in sympathy with their own perception of the historical process. Moreover, in the high Tory tradition which mistrusts cleverness, Lord Carrington is a man who, by

nature, conceals his considerable political abilities; to them he often seems limited or imprincipled.

That point of decision was reached for Lord Carrington when he returned, no doubt tired and discouraged, from the European summit in Dublin on Friday evening.

The Patriotic Front's list of counter proposals on a ceasefire, which they themselves judged entirely reasonable, surprised and exasperated the British side. On Saturday, a final effort was made by officials to clarify what the British proposals meant, without changing them, in the hope that the Patriotic Front would come round.

But the Patriotic Front held to their view that they were not to be rushed, that what they were asking for was no more than fair play. There was no

further contact on Sunday. Lord Carrington set up a plenary session of the conference on Monday afternoon before returning to his Cabinet colleagues that evening on progress to date.

When the Patriotic Front indicated that they were not going to give a Yes or No answer, Lord Carrington decided that he had waited long enough, and cancelled the meeting at short notice. If necessary, Britain would go ahead without them.

Lord Carrington, in his view, has done all that he possibly could to ease their concerns for a just settlement, and allay their anxieties over a ceasefire. His negotiating technique had worked twice already. His calculation this week was not merely that it would work a third time, but that it had to work—there was no other way.

If the Rhodesian settlement was to be clinched.

A decision to go ahead, as he judged it on Monday afternoon, was that no agreement would be reached and that the Salisbury delegation would start going back on their own commitment—that the whole constitutional settlement would unravel.

The Patriotic Front believed that Britain cannot go ahead without them. A way may yet be found of bringing them back into the negotiations so that a ceasefire can be agreed. If so, the risk that Lord Carrington has taken will be triumphantly vindicated. If not, the war in Rhodesia will rage on.

Bernard Levin

Doctor at sea on an ugly tide

In the present power-struggle within the Labour Party, some of the arguments, and even troops, tend to be obscured by the smoke of battle, and fears have been expressed that even when the hurly-burly is done, when the battle's lost or won, when the smoke has cleared, we may not know immediately, which side has come out on top. That fear at any rate I can confidently dispel; to know who has won control of the Labour Party, just keep an eye on Dr David Owen (the Roy Hattersley of British politics) and see on which side of the fence he finally decides his bread is buttered. I have said that it is unwise to change vessels in mid-stream; I have likewise pointed out the perils of changing rats half-way on a sinking ship; Dr Johnson anticipated me by observing that there is no establishing a point of precedence between a louse and a flea; but when I contemplate Dr Owen all such images fade, and I am put strongly in mind of a mass of butter-mushin swallowed by a fake medium and regurgitated slowly in the half-light of a seance to convince the gullible that she is extruding ectoplasm.

Did you read his remarks about Mr Roy Jenkins's call to the democrats in the Labour Party, if they cannot put their house in order, to build a new house? Naturally, Dr Owen could not take up a straightforward leftist position on the speech, denouncing Mr Jenkins as a crypto-Tory traitor to the working-class; such credibility as he has (though for credibility he already stands somewhat between Benedict Arnold and Harold Wilson) would be altogether lost if he threw in his lot with the left as quickly as that. No: he had to put the centre-right case without identi-

fying himself too closely with it; he may one day need the votes of those on the left who are not so far left that they would never support him in any circumstances, and anyway he has got to ensure that there will still be a job for him when Mr Alloush, say, is Prime Minister. Without, therefore, a wonderfully characteristic touch—actually mentioning Mr Jenkins by name, he spoke of "three voices from outside, from those who have given us the fight from within"—and said how wrong it would be for the Labour Party to split and thus "forfeit the support of many millions of people who currently vote Labour", and insisted that the thing to do is to "turn our own party once more into a strong electoral force capable of ousting Mrs Thatcher and winning back power as a broad based party with appeal across the classes" (the latter an oratorical style like sicked-up cheesecloth, too).

I begin with that excursion back into week-old history because Dr Owen was at it again on Monday, and because the fact that on this occasion he is a good deal more important than his political ambitions (More important to the rest of us, anyway). This time it is the EEC; Dr Owen's speech on the subject, to the Richmond Fabian Society (thereafter, for you if you wish, in the pages of this newspaper under the curious subheading "Dr Owen stands firm" (as in recycled ectoplasm), included an assertion that "there can be no going back on Britain's EEC membership" (my italics) and a good deal more backing out of the EEC" followed by a call for "all-party support against any Whitehall tendency to compromise" and a "tough middle way" (that is he was calling for a tough middle

way, not for all-party support against one, though no doubt he would be willing to have his remarks interpreted in the contrary sense if enough of his potential supporters would wish it).

I have paid such detailed attention to Dr Owen partly because I have been wanting to do so for a considerable time, but much more because in his remarks on the EEC he is only the more bit of floatation on an ugly tide which is carrying a considerable quantity of debris along with it. The Labour Party's attitude to Britain's membership has, of course, always been confused and confused since the days when Harold Wilson was reversing his own position on the subject every Tuesday and Friday. Much of the left is opposed to the EEC simply because the Soviet Union is; much of the seagay crowd is perfectly willing to be if they think there is real electoral advantage to be gained from such a somersault; Mr Wedgwood Benn sees opposition to Britain's membership as a good way of achieving his own ambitions (I have no doubt that he has already persuaded himself that the referendum—which he insisted on—did not vote Yes by a majority of rather more than two to one); Mr Callaghan seems to see it as a chance to divert attention from his own internal party troubles by working up a spurious indignation at Mrs Thatcher's handling of the Dublin meeting; and slowly the lines are becoming more clearly visible in the smoke, and what emerges is a strategy that would enable the party to achieve a precarious and temporary unity by demanding Britain's withdrawal from the EEC. Such a decision would satisfy all

but a few honest men and a few devoted Europeans (the two categories overlap, though they are not quite congruent). It would be, at any rate superficially and at first, a good thing for the party; and there would be comfort for bent consciences in the thought that after all we could always negotiate our way back in again, and even that we don't have to go quite all the way to actual withdrawal from the EEC, as irreparably damaging it and our relations with it would probably suffice, as indeed would a promise to withdraw made for an election and then being withdrawn.

Do not tell me that it is impossible; desperate men and the Labour Party leadership (apud described in the words of the famous misprint as "battle-scarred veterans, or even as in Beachcomber's extension of the chestnut with "always foremost in the flight" and "the zero of a hundred encounters") are now nothing if not desperate—will pursue desperate courses. It wouldn't even be the first time: a very good deal of the present economic troubles have grown directly from the Labour leadership's support in 1974 of the miners' pay-claim which they would not have been able to resist. And in particular from Mr Callaghan's own active encouragement to them to remain intransigent in order to enhance his and his party's electoral chances. Besides that, yet another somewhat over-the-top EEC is a trifle, particularly as Mr Callaghan

always took great care to let it be known that he was never a particularly enthusiastic European anyway. (Nor do I have any recollection of Mr Healey hearing much of a drum at the time either.)

One of the most ingeniously contemptible reasons for voting Labour earlier this year was that "Labour could be trusted in Opposition", that is, that the Labour Party, once out of power, would be willing to take any line that might bring them back into it, however inimical to the country's interest it might be. But the argument was contemptible only because it put forward cowardice as the chief electoral virtue; on the face of it, could not be faulted. And the point is that it is the Labour Party that cannot be thus trusted; not just the left of it. (The most notable example apart from the miners' claim is, of course, Labour's opposition to the Tories' version of their own proposals for an Industrial Relations Act; it was not just Lady Castle who maintained that no change in trade union law was necessary, but the whole party, including the moderates. And they are just getting ready to do the same thing when the present Government's Bill on the same subject is tabled.)

In the circumstances, the NEC's move towards an outright demand for Britain's withdrawal from the EEC is not surprising; nor is the silence on the part of so many of the party's leadership; nor, above all, is the oppositionist attitude of plans issued from Dr Owen's mouth.

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Lord Rothschild reflects on his two years inquiring into gambling on behalf of the nation

The doubtful honour of being employed on commission

The trouble about royal commissions is that they rarely, if ever, have any political sex appeal, whereas politicians, being concerned with politics and therefore votes, tend to be interested in subjects which are politically sexy and not, like royal commissions, positively anaphorodisical.

At the same time royal commissions have their uses. As A. P. Herbert noted: "A Royal Commission is generally appointed, not so much for digging up the truth as for government department appointing a Royal Commission is like a dog burying a bone, except that the

dog does eventually return to the bone."

Given this background the enthusiasm and tenacity with which members of royal commissions so often pursue their task is surprising and commendable, in spite of the honour of not being paid or, if they are, at a rate (in lieu of what they are given up) and in a way so tortuous as to have daunted all but one of my commissioners.

It is true that commissioners may acquire the much-coveted Cabinet boxes (blue, green or red and in several shapes, if they pay for them, or so I have been told since the Royal

Commission on Gambling ceased its labours in July 1978. Until then the boxes were a kind of poultice.

The fact that members of a royal commission are not well treated financially should not obscure the fact that Commissioners themselves are very responsible people. We shall, of course, be able to use pressure of legislative time and public expenditure restrictions as reasons for what I might call "postponing consideration of the matter" (a phrase which is a large number of recommendations).

Before that, however, the Home Office had not, of course, been idle. As soon as a report was issued, officials of that department wrote to all interested parties asking them if they had any comments to make on the report. Had it occurred to these officials that those who have been already been questioned at length by the royal commission, or had submitted evidence which had been carefully weighed by the commissioners? No-one will ever know.

At this stage the Home Office slipped up. For some obscure reason they failed to collect together the comments of all those interested parties and circulate them for comment, perhaps even to the ghost of the royal commission.

The process could have been continued indefinitely and the fact that it would have done no good is irrelevant. Solving crossword puzzles, maypole dancing and sticking safety pins through the socks of one's shoes do no good, but apart from the odd case of septicaemia, they do no harm unlike the games played between sessions of bingo which the Government and the Gaming Board are too idle to deal with.

Anyway, why should not those lonely middle-aged ladies, taken for a ride? They do not have to play the interval games, for example the jackpot machines if the queues waiting to play are not too long. Was all that sweat worthwhile? Were all those visits to working men's clubs and miners' welfare institutes necessary if the commission

brief debate about gambling in the House, opened of course by the Home Secretary, after which we can bury the subject almost indefinitely. We can arrange for him to make some nice noises about the commission and the debate itself will placate those baying for action.

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was later to be told by the spokesman for these organisations to mind its own business and that no information about the conduct of gambling in such institutions would be forthcoming? An Englishman's club is, after all, his castle and the gambling turnover in the clubs is only some £400m a year.

It would be wrong not to record that the chairman of some royal commissions are rewarded in a way which gave me, at any rate, great pleasure. They do so of thing very well here. But in retrospect, in spite of my silver inkstand and in spite of having made some new and enjoyable friendships, I would wonder whether the sweat and cost was worthwhile, both from the point of view of the country and of the commissioners.

I suspect that like most gamblers, this one did not come off. Maybe the time has come to reexamine the system, even though this was last done as recently as in 1910.

The author was chairman of the Royal Commission on Gambling.

Suspicion, as Labour sorts itself out



Mr Callaghan: fed up

Mr David Bannett is fed up with the antics of the left; Mr Eric Heffer is fed up with the trade unions; and Mr Callaghan is fed up generally with the behaviour of the national executive

It was while he was a plain mister that Harold Wilson coined the admirable description that royal commissions take minutes and sit for years. Sir Harold, it will be recalled, wrote the famous "penny farthing" report on the state of the Labour Party in the mid-1960s, and now the party is about to embark on a commission of inquiry into its organisation and structure. It shows all the signs of following the same tortuous path as other commissions.

There are one or two things that need to be said about the inquiry before looking at the contention that surrounds it. Why, for example, the ludicrously pompous title, particularly from a party that repeatedly professes its suspicion of elitism in its ranks? The team, whatever its eventual size, is from and appointed by the national executive committee and the Committee of Trade Unions for a Labour Victory (TULV). They commission themselves, so why not an ungarbished inquiry. A commission may sound more authoritative, but the inflation of language does not of itself add weight to the substance.

The title, of course, is the least of the party's worries. This is the third inquiry it has had since the war, but the first to have such a grandiose name. Mr David Bannett, one of the founders of TULV, is fed up with the antics of the left; Mr Eric Heffer (who, incidentally, received the ultimate insult this week when a Labour right-winger asked him if he had ever written his column for *The Times*) is fed up with the trade unions; and Mr James Callaghan is fed up generally with the behaviour of the national executive.

It is all very healthy, if one accepts the dictum of Aneurin Bevan that there is nothing worse for democracy than the unanimity of the graveyard. What lies behind the dispute in fact, is that for the first time in a decade there is real contention between the rival factions of left and right over the direction of the party. There is no post-mortem when there is no body, Harold

Wilson declared after the 1974 general election defeat. Now there is to be one, after the defeat this year, and in the nature of things there has to be the spilling of blood.

The left, by legitimate means of forced argument and stillgence in attending meetings, captured control of the national executive, the custodian of party policy, in the mid-Seventies. Now the right is fighting back. It is this that forms the basis for the trade unionist's inquiry. And the left, despite their bravura display of reflecting the views of the mass of the party, are not as confident as they try to appear.

There was, for example, an extraordinary caucus meeting last week. Before the national executive met to discuss representations from Mr Bannett that the composition of the inquiry team should be reconstituted, the left congregation in one of the rooms in the Norman Shaw building, near Parliament, to decide what line to adopt. Mr Bannett is infuriated because the national executive has packed the inquiry team with left wingers and he wants a better balance.

The left has resisted appeals from Mr Callaghan that his shadow cabinet should be allowed the Parliamentary Labour Party to have representation, but at the caucus meeting there were signs of compromise, or at least a recognition of the genuine pressure being brought to bear on the executive. Mr Frank Alloush, a former party chairman, suggested allowing the PLP one representative. He was supported by another former chairman, Miss Joan Lester.

But there was clearly an air of combative insecurity in the room. Resistance came from among others, Mr Wedgwood Benn and Miss Joan Maynard. Working busily on their fingers, those present indulged in a collective number game in which it was shown that any surrender on the proposed composition would probably rob the left of its majority. And the left is determined not to be dictated to by the unions. If the right is to have a say, the left feels determined to fight the cash register bargaining power of the trade unions, the party's paymasters.

The inquiry, therefore, is but a reflection of the foundation of mutual suspicion, which does not augur well for its eventual findings. Indeed, there is already talk that majority and minority reports seem inevitable, with the merits being thrust out at the party conference.

However, the argument over the composition is by no means over. This week Mr Bannett wrote another letter to Mr Ron Davies, the party general secretary, suggesting once again that the inquiry should be the balance of the inquiry team. The issue may crop up again at today's meeting of the national executive, though the left is expected to put up fierce resistance.

The unions, though, still have a role in the inquiry. The national executive proposes that, when they first proposed the inquiry, the unions suggested five from either side. The executive put on seven. If the unions were so minded, the TULV could have a more balanced representation by two. Indeed, the names of Mr Sydney Weighall and Mr Alan Fisher have already been mentioned. The TULV is reluctant to take such a step because it would only bring the row, but it would seem, on the face of it, a legitimate device.

Michael Hatfield

VANCOUVER DIARY

Looking towards the wide Pacific sea

It has been China months in Vancouver. The Peking opera were here and an ingenious new Canadian play about the cultural revolution has just opened to full houses. In many galleries and theatres, Vancouverites have been reminded of China, as though this city did not already have the second largest Chinese community in North America—San Francisco being the largest—and a noisy congested, quinescentially Chinese Chinatown.

However, it might easily have been Japan's month instead: of Korea, the Philippines or Indonesia. Any Pacific power would do. British Columbia is once again trying to remind the eastern establishment in Ottawa that Canada is also a Pacific power, with British Columbia and its coastline here to prove it.

There is much else here to prove it. One must start with geography. The young man from Ontario or Quebec can go west as far as Vancouver, and then he will find if he takes another step he will be going east, into Asia. This is the end of the line, the rim of a continent itself wider than the sea which separates it from Europe.

The new houses about north Vancouver sit nestled into hills and face firmly out towards the Pacific. The

Rockies are behind you, the sea is in front. Who would ever turn his back on the sea and face a wall like that?

Geography is part of the history. British Columbia was discovered from the Pacific long before the overland route wormed its way through the mountains. The native Indians here almost certainly came across from Asia. Captains Cook and Vancouver did not dismount from horses when they arrived, they dropped anchor. Even the Chinese first started to appear in 1858, and many more then came in as coolies to build the railway which subsequently linked the sea to the east with a post-rail unbridled.

Now trade; and when trade comes in can the Japanese be far behind? The United States is naturally the dominant economic power here as elsewhere in Canada; but the Japanese are catching up fast. Some tens of millions of exports—1,000 million dollars—to Japan, half of it originating in British Columbia while the other half passes through.

Oriental influences

The Japanese community here is small, and still recalls the bad treatment it received in the war. However the small physical presence is compensated for by a dominant trading position which buys most of BC's coal and thus has an overpowering influence on its fishing industry.

It is not just Japan, however. Hongkong money is behind many big property deals, and South Korea has placed a huge order here for uniforms.

There are the boat people; and the Kampuchean are expected here as well, since Canada's foreign minister, Flora MacDonald, has put her personal authority behind the policy of absorption of Indo China's refugees.

Early in 1980 Vancouver is holding a conference called Pacific 80 to discuss Canada's potential as a front rank Pacific trading power. The other three western provinces, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, will be there, since most of the rest of Canada's Japanese trade originates with them.

The point about Vancouver is that the more the western provinces pull together, and assert a collective identity which is different from, and in some ways antipathetic to the east, the more Vancouver's importance as the region's major outlet will become.

There is more to it than trade. The size of the city as Canada's third largest, its cultural growth—theatre, music, visual arts—reflect a much greater cosmopolitanism than its prairie neighbours—what ever Alberta's wealth can hope to buy over the counter.

The post is getting worse—

It's an invite from

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does to the fury and expense of prairie farmers. A Japanese freighter knocked down the second Narrows bridge recently causing further dislocation to coal supplies offshore, and commuters onshore.

The remoteness from Ottawa can only be felt and sensed when you come west. Admittedly there is now for the first time a direct flight, bypassing Toronto. But the very fact of the jet age tends to aggravate distance rather than to reduce it.

Feeling remote

In the railway era the trip to Ottawa was a major trek for everybody in Canada. Now, in the east, you can fly to the capital for lunch and return in the afternoon. The long flight to Vancouver wears out federal politicians, few of whom seem to last for long as an MP for a constituency thousands of miles from Parliament.

So the squabbles between Ottawa and Quebec, or Alberta to them by the time they have crossed the Rockies. The Liberal Government's bilingual act endorsed a French television channel on Vancouver, though the French-speaking community is smaller than the German and Scandinavian one.

A survey has discovered that only a few hundred of the 8,000 Francophones who shop in the city are in the language debate had, hardly

attracted attention, far along distress, but the spectacle of money wasted on underused television time was sure to strike a deep emotional chord in any Canadian home.

The dualism of Anglo-French Canada is not a reality in BC. One quarter of Vancouver's schoolchildren speak a BC dialect of French, and a quarter of the English non-French Canada's federal prime ministers drop in here. Mr Trudeau married a Vancouver girl and Mr Clark spoke only last week to a fund raising dinner. The newspaper report is the best of news, but it would seem, on the face of it, a legitimate device.

Our there across the trade bedfords, but the politics of Asia seem to be of no interest. Can they be ignored by long if Canada wants Pacific status? Perhaps it was too far for Canada to wait for the day to the Vietnam war began discovering she is a Pacific nation.

Charles Douglas-Horn

Crown Princess Sonja of Norway will be switching on the lights on the Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square, London, at 5.30 p.m. on Thursday, December 15, and not on Tuesday, December 14, as reported in yesterday's *London Daily*.

Past master - present company

James Buchanan produced his Buchanan Blend in 1884 and it quickly made his reputation. Today's Buchanan Blend faithfully follows the tradition he laid down, and already discerning scotch drinkers are on the lookout for the bottle with James Buchanan's picture on the label. It's an outstanding blend of aged whiskies. Ask for Buchanan Blend and enjoy the scotch of a lifetime.

The Buchanan Blend
THE SCOTCH OF A LIFETIME



100

The main prize was shared by Francis Ford Coppola's *Apocalypse Now*, after Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*, and

Apart from Rossi, the Italians in Cannes offered fables. Luigi Comencini's *L'Inferno* (Traffic Jam) provides a heavily-banded metaphor for the chaotic world of traffic jams, and Fellini's *Proust d'Orchestra* is a gem—deceptively simple and good-natured, really mischievous and unnerving. A television crew is at work on a clearly dreadful documentary about the book club rehearsal in an ancient chapel. The rehearsal starts pleasantly enough, but bit by bit drifts into industrial dispute, hostility and chaos. A sudden exit threat, a decision on outfit starts tearing the chapel apart around them—drives the recal-

The most invigorating aspect of Edinburgh however was the display of strength by young British film-makers. Leaving on one side Ridley Scott's *Alien* and Alan Clarke's sensational *Scum*, there was Derek Jarman's visually brilliant, authentically Shakespearean *Timon of Athens*, and the superbly edited feature about Radio On, co-produced by the British Film Institute Production Board and Wim Wenders's Munich-based Road Films, Ken Loach's extraordinarily winning children's film *Black Jack* and Franc

New Delhi

Perhaps unique in still possessing a cinema in boom (production rose in 1978 from 557 to an unprecedented 619 features) India continues to produce new directors of independence and talent. India's wandering festival (last year Madras, next year Bangalore) thus offers special attractions to European visitors. This year's crop of new films and new directors included G. Aravindan's *Thamp*

The undisputed doyen of festivals was revived after a gap of seven years, during which it had seemed to have breathed its last. Meanwhile, of the festivals that had promised to replace it as the major autumn event, *Paris* this year went into temporary hibernation, while *Taormina* had been overtaken by economic recession. The Venetians have respect for history, and a sense of occasion. There were retrospective homages to Marcel Pagnol, Nicholas Ray and Emilio Gubine (Italy's first serial adventure king), D. W. Griffith's *The Birth of a Nation* of 1915 was shown in the Squalo Theatre, to a full symphony orchestra to play the original musical accompaniment: Eisestein's "restored" *Que Viva Mexico!* was presented in La Penice.

Such events helped to compensate for signs of the evident but less obvious, which had been put together. There were no films from, for example, Germany, Australia or Poland; and the French would have been poorly represented but for Jean Rouch's *Funerailles à Dongou le réveil Anzi, 1849-1900*, an unconventional production by this great anthropological filmmaker of the elaborate funeral celebrations for an old

Incant is a theme currently fascinating European filmmakers. Bernardo Bertolucci's *La Luna* concerns the incestuous attraction between a mother and her son, a young man, a young girl and a young boy. (The film's position under the Child Protection Act is, again, questionable.) Perhaps it was the strength of expectation that made local indignation so strong when the film turned out not to be incestuous at all, but rather, enjoyable melodrama, veering on the kitsch when Bertolucci uses his favourite device of an operatic background to pitch up his characters' emotional turmoils.

The Venetians were certainly a good deal better pleased with *Raimondo* and gave its director, Giuseppe Tornatore, one of the biggest ovations ever heard at a festival. It is a comedy that borrows shamelessly from Tati, Woody Allen and almost everybody else, that loses control of its extravaganzas, that drives its best gags to death. But Netti is a superbly comic, sometimes a solemn little man with wild hair, swish bespectacled eyes and a demonic ingenuity for inventing machines and devices which get out of hand. He has moreover the good comic talent for making himself a part of the world of eccentric comic figures. The Italians, anyway, have decided

Vienna

Non-competitive and underfunded, the Viennese does not even claim to be one of the major events in the calendar, but it is certainly one of the most attractive. Its director, Edwin Zbonek, a well-known Viennese stage writer and director, goes all out for quality, and his festival is a valuable opportunity to catch up on the best of the art. The year's programmes include *Wise Blood*, *Prova d'Orchestra*, *Apocalypse Now*, the latest Altman, *Quinter* and *A Perfect Couple*, the latest Wajdas, *Without Anesthetic* and *The Mends of Wilko*, the latest King Rus, *Legend of the Mountain* and

Zlotecki also has a talent for finding films unjustly overshadowed at other festivals: this year *Cinema*, a charming Georgian film about the days of the Tsar, and from Yugoslavia Goran Paskaljević's gentle, unsensationalist study of a man's courage in the village, *Zemaljski Dani Teku*. The *Venice* also put on show films which seemed evidence of a new Austrian cinema: *Ulf* (Ulf Gellera's *Ulf*), *Josef* (Josef M. Bauer's *Josef*). *Josef* is a well-meaning but unconvincing neo-documentary portrait of a delinquent boy; *The Eighth Step* (Günther von Fritsch's *Der Achte Schritt*) is a Russian-born Mansour Madaev's is a visually elegant, stylized investigation of a lonely delinquent girl heavily influenced by Alexander Kluge.

David Robinson

to make what sounds
complete whole, power- **Hamburg**

Although Hamburg's fifth annual ballet festival offered, as usual, a retrospective view of the recent repertory, what caught most attention were, inevitably, the two new productions at the Staatsoper. First was Richard Strauss' double

Holland

The most exciting of several ballets created for this year's Holland Festival was Hans van Manen's *Live*, a work for two dancers and a video-cameraman. The idea behind it is simple. Sometimes you see one or both dancers in the flesh, sometimes

and its ingenuity alone would make Life memorable, but its surprising merit is the way situation, movement and the intentions of her two colleagues, who are not at all afraid together to reveal the quality of the young dancer, Coleen Davis, whom the choreographer picked for the leading part. An excellent example of this is Liszt's late piano pieces, innovative but with a strict sense of form, underlines Van Manen's methods.

It was given by the National Ballet at the Carré, a former circus building, on a double bill with *Life*. This is a joint production by Koot van der Horst and the Dutch Royal Ballet, which their social consciences dictate the content, their theatrical sense the presentation.

A vast, sprawling work of two and a quarter hours without an interval, mingling actors and a singer with its large dancing cast, its mood is conservative, its style, its authority altogether down, burlesquing the Dutch royal family and the Russian revolution. Its sad moral seems to be that the quest for freedom is necessary but doomed to failure, and it calls on Charles Ives (his songs are sung by Betty Anderson) David Bowie and the *Internationale* among other music to help make its points.

Jiri Kylián, a new ballet for National Ballet of the Netherlands set to Janáček's *Glagolitic Mass*, splendidly sung by the Slovak Philharmonic Chorus, is a more serious work. The singers and orchestra were markedly less idiomatic. The choreography combines the best, energy and romantic sensibility. Kylián's *Janáček ballet*, *Sinfonietta*, with something of the troubled though devout feeling of his staging of Stravinsky's *Symphony of Sissak*.

In these, and other recent works, Kylián has brought the company once more to a peak of performing ability, in which

London and elsewhere —Nureyev

Bakst designs. Nureyev's own performance, fired by intelligence as well as by the imagination of his partner, Nijinsky's imagination. In London, he was married by Margot Fonteyn's hieratic account of the chief nymph; she danced that and an equally youngling, *Les Sylphes*, in *Spectacular*, rose just four weeks after the Royal Ballet had celebrated her sixtieth birthday with a gala at Covent Garden.

His tour season ranged from *Sleeping Beauty* and *Roméo and Juliet* to a programme with the Murray Louis Dance Company including the British premiere of *Les Sylphes*. In *Les Sylphes*, light comedies in which the goddess, wrenched up on a modern beach, plays havoc with the feelings of a hitherto prissy young man, Cole Porter's *Can-Can* was a new addition to his holostrous way, memory of their (unsung) words often underlining a point. An uneven work, this, but worth while for providing a new role with a role and a new manner. Solos for Nureyev, a prodigious exercise in control and musical relationships to a Bach fugue, and for Louis, sharply witty as ever, further diversified this programme.

Monte Carlo

As part of the festivities surrounding the centenary of its birth, the Regency Opera House, London, has mounted a new ballet from Roland Petit, *Rosamunda*, by Zizi Jeanmaire and Les Ballets de Marseille. *La Chauve Souris* is a very Gallic version of our old friend *Fledermaus*, which has already undergone in balletic form earlier in the year. Enlisted as *Rosamunda* in Ronald Bynd's production for Festival Ballet.

Feick gained a head start over Bynd with Douglas Gamble (an English musician: why has none of our companies discovered him?) to arrange and conduct the music with a lilt that Johann Strauss himself would have enjoyed. He consolidated his lead by a far more thorough-going revision of the plot, in which his hero hovers like Batman over the sleeping Beauty, who is being courted in a series of infatuations that take him to café society as well as a masked ball.

That gives scope for highly diverting performances from the phlegmatic husband and Luigi Bonino in multiparious disguises

(wailer, coachman, gaber) as the family friend whose sympathy for the lonely wife is just a little warmer than it should be. The black trumperd is the hero's bering Bella. Even in a long black dress and red wig, as the housewife of the opening scene, Jeanmaire's assumed dowdiness scarcely hides her glamour. Then, for the first of her transformations, Petit takes a calculated risk.

She appears suddenly from behind a screen, looking almost exactly as when she dazzled us in Carmen 30 years ago: the

Schwetzingen

Ballet Rambert's ambitious two-act dance-drama based on Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, has already taken the company to Stuttgart and Paris, sold out Sadler's Wells for a week and done good business on tour. So the company has cause for gratitude to the Schwetzingen Festival, which commissioned Glen Tetley's choreography and Arne Nordheim's score, what reservations some of us may feel about the finished

Nordheim's orchestral writing has his accustomed wiry strength, but the prominent vocal parts are disconcertingly soft and sticky, like marshmallows. The music is a little evocative of waves breaking clean on a quiet beach, sets a standard of eloquence that none of the solos or duets comes near matching.

It is surprising to find a producer of Tetley's experience making Caliban and Ariel so confusingly alike, let alone the unidentifiable minor characters. The costumes, too, are all in styles and Elizabethan masques, nearly half assimilated, complicate the issue further. The biggest disappointment is what comes almost a minute after Prospero's "O, Christen!"—a striding, striding, striding deyspectably about, sneering voyeur-like from the raised platforms which interrupt the first of Bayle's "O, Christen!" settings. Just when you think he will at last have a big solo to clinch his place in the action, he walks off, stiff and, and the curtain falls. The letter is over, but not really concluded.

Vienna

Dazzled by the city's musical fame, people forget Vienna's proud, if intermittent, place in ballet history. Gluck's *Don Juan* and Beethoven's *Prometheus* were created there, Fanny Elssler was born and Taglioni made her debut. A festival fortnight at the Staatsoper showed the range of the Vienna Baller's present repertory; its

success has led to plans for
future dance festivals

Among the classics, Grigorovich's facetious *Nutcracker*, despite Lilly Scheuermann's crisp assurance as Marie, was outshone by Nureyev in his own *Don Quixote*, with Gisela Cech a tough, spirited Kitri, and *The Swan Lake*. The latter is a solidly crafted, mainly traditional production until the last act brings a tragic ending: Siegfried drowned in a spectacular storm, Odette condemned to remain a swan.

Directed by Gerhard Brünnler, the distinguished music scholar and producer, the tasteless company has lately acquired many interesting modern works. They include revival choruses from the Vienna Volksoper, heritage and potential. Imagine Balanchine's *Liebelslieder* in a city where everybody still dances, or the *Waldesgespräch* on Rudolfsplatz. Dances and *Lieder* of David Janowitz to sing and Holmeister conduct the Richard Strauss score.

For the Vienna Festsche, commissioned for Vienna, is set to an ambitious electronic tape by Roman Haubenstock-Ramati which cannot really sustain its own music. The Vienna Festsche. Still, it propels the choreographer and his protagonist, *Unvergessen*, into a mixture of timelessness and the present day, heroics and humour, in making its point about the dis-

In *Josephs Legende*, John Neumeier has managed to transform one of Diaghilev's white elephants from an antiquated mime play into a swirling, Secession-style dance drama on themes of profane and sacred love with Earl Muis as the guardian angel who leads Joseph to his destiny. Kevin Hagen, a muscular but appealingly wait-like Joseph, dances a long solo with springy resilience. Judith Jamison's enormously long arms and flexible torso serve as a vivid portrait of Egyptian life.

Best of the recent creations is *Grand Trio*, in which Hans van Manen has found dances of a ravishing and unpredictable grace to match the superb Trio (in B major, op. 99, d. 838) which Schumann described as making the world shine new again. A hint of a growing relationship between two of the cast, Cech and Georg Döl, from wary interest to a relaxed and happy affair, enriches the exhilarating dance patterns of this exceptionally

John Percival

Land: for the girls, it is a free holiday helping out on a kibbutz including the chance of getting off with Israeli soldiers.

FESTIVALS OF THE YEAR: MUSIC I

its thirty-second year, the music festival of Aldeburgh still prides itself on its productions of operas, as it did when it was first founded in 1947. The present artistic director, Bernard Lefort, has been at the helm since 1971, and he plans with a grandeur and a sense of occasion that is rare in the world of the festival. The music was superb, the singing was excellent, and the production was a masterpiece. The festival is a true gem of the British musical scene.

For this year's festival, the Aldeburgh Music Society has been particularly successful. The production of *La Traviata* by Giuseppe Verdi, directed by Bernard Lefort, was a triumph. The singing was superb, and the production was a masterpiece. The festival is a true gem of the British musical scene.

At that cannot miss... the festival is a true gem of the British musical scene. The production of *La Traviata* by Giuseppe Verdi, directed by Bernard Lefort, was a triumph. The singing was superb, and the production was a masterpiece.

is of course, modern, a semi-historical fantasy by Dominique Fernandez whose response to the modern revival of baroque operas might be echoed by many others who are thrilled by the virtuoso music composed for the festival. The festival is a true gem of the British musical scene.

Aldeburgh

Attention was properly paid to Aldeburgh to the centenary of the festival. The production of *La Traviata* by Giuseppe Verdi, directed by Bernard Lefort, was a triumph. The singing was superb, and the production was a masterpiece.

This year's principal opera at Aldeburgh was *Eugene Onegin*. The performance, given largely by a student ensemble—the opera was written, a century ago, for the Moscow Conservatory—was a triumph. The singing was superb, and the production was a masterpiece.

Edinburgh

In the past, the artistic director of the Edinburgh International Festival has always been able to plan two or three years in advance. When John Drummond was appointed to the post last year, he had some six months only in which to assemble the festival.

That most romantic of romantic operas, *La Traviata*, opened the festival. The singing was superb, and the production was a masterpiece. The festival is a true gem of the British musical scene.

Jonathan Miller's production of *La Traviata* was a triumph. The singing was superb, and the production was a masterpiece. The festival is a true gem of the British musical scene.

At that cannot miss... the festival is a true gem of the British musical scene. The production of *La Traviata* by Giuseppe Verdi, directed by Bernard Lefort, was a triumph. The singing was superb, and the production was a masterpiece.



Elisabeth Söderström—an unforgettable recitalist and (see next page) Glyndebourne's commanding Leonora

to Verdi than photography is to Turner. Bernard Lefort's production of *La Traviata* was a triumph. The singing was superb, and the production was a masterpiece.

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events yielded the greatest rewards. And that of course was in keeping with the carefully egalitarian look of this year's festival.

The spirit of Russian ballet sometimes turned up in the most unlikely places. At the Edinburgh International Festival, the production of *La Traviata* was a triumph.

At that cannot miss... the festival is a true gem of the British musical scene. The production of *La Traviata* by Giuseppe Verdi, directed by Bernard Lefort, was a triumph. The singing was superb, and the production was a masterpiece.

At the King's Theatre, Scottish Opera opened their season with Rimsky-Korsakov's *Le Cid*. The production was a triumph. The singing was superb, and the production was a masterpiece.

Opera is always a problem at Bath Festivals: the lovely old Theatre Royal is there, but what will suit it without breaking the budget? The 1979 solution was to bring from Manchester the Royal Northern College's recent production of Handel's *Orlando*.

At that cannot miss... the festival is a true gem of the British musical scene. The production of *La Traviata* by Giuseppe Verdi, directed by Bernard Lefort, was a triumph. The singing was superb, and the production was a masterpiece.

Elisabeth Söderström, in the course of a wonderful recital, submitted Swedish song-composers to the brilliant illumination of her powerful musical personality, and did the same in Mussorgsky's *Nursery*, though what happened was that she was taken over by the music, and became its vessel.

That concert was a major achievement, as was Jean Philippe Colliard's piano recital. The production of *La Traviata* was a triumph.

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to its inner content, the jewels perceptible within the gleaming casket. Among the orchestral concerts, those given by the Boston Symphony Orchestra under Seiji Ozawa did not merely stand out, but removed ideas about orchestral interpretation into a new league.

There were disappointments, of course. Richard Rodney Bennett's Cello Concerto, based on Rilke's *Sonnets to Orpheus*, was posthumously made, superbly played by the soloist Heinrich Schiff, yet gave a *déjà vu* impression, bordering on plagiarism, though surely the borrowing derived from sincere admiration.

Scottish Opera's new production of Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin* was another disappointment. The production was a triumph.

At that cannot miss... the festival is a true gem of the British musical scene. The production of *La Traviata* by Giuseppe Verdi, directed by Bernard Lefort, was a triumph. The singing was superb, and the production was a masterpiece.



Buxton Opera House

Perhaps Buxton should have arranged a cover for so important a role, but the budgets for new festivals rarely allow for such luxuries. The production of *La Traviata* was a triumph.

At that cannot miss... the festival is a true gem of the British musical scene. The production of *La Traviata* by Giuseppe Verdi, directed by Bernard Lefort, was a triumph. The singing was superb, and the production was a masterpiece.

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FESTIVALS OF THE YEAR: MUSIC 2

Florence

In the early 1970s when Massimo Bogianckino was at the Scala plans were drawn up for a Ring cycle. Luchino Visconti was first choice as producer, reasonably enough in view of his successes at the house, but eventually he declined the invitation, probably because he already sensed that his health was beginning to fail him and that he would not be able to see the project through.

So the Scala Ring began in 1973 with a borrowed Rheingold, directed by Günther Rennert, while Luca Ronconi and Pier Luigi Pizzi were engaged as the director-designer team for the next two stages in the tetralogy, Walküre and Siegfried. The switch from long-established and revered producers to a fairly avant-garde combination was a sudden and bold one. In the event it turned out a little too bold on the composer's side, as Wagner's Wagner had detractors and supporters in about equal number, but the detractors won the day. Götz-Fröhlich never materialized and the Ring gradually slid out of the Scala repertoire.

When Bogianckino left Milan to run the Maggio Musicale in Florence he brought with him this ambition to stage a Ring in Italy. It began to look possible when Zubin Mehta was attracted by the idea of the cycle. He had been in Florence before, conducting his first cycle in Vienna. La Scala promised what remained of Walküre and Siegfried, which by all accounts is quite a lot, in return for an audition on the completed cycle. Ronconi and Pizzi were engaged to begin where they should have started in the first place, at the beginning with Rheingold.

So this year's Maggio took on an unusually Germanic aspect. It opened with Walküre, albeit sung in Italian, but there was little doubt Rheingold was to be the centrepiece of the festival. Florence was chosen as the city for the early summer meeting of the directors of the world's opera houses, most of whom were expected to attend the Rheingold first night. In the event they did not see it, or rather saw very little of it. Pizzi's scenery obstinately refused to be changed within the time allowed, and the premiere had to be postponed not once but twice. And when Rheingold did emerge, to considerable acclaim from most of the Italian press, and certainly a far warmer welcome than the Scala productions had received, it was without the Valhalla envisaged by Pizzi.

The Ronconi Rheingold is a bizarre mixture of styles, alternately brilliant and perverse. It is always possible, of course, that what appears bizarre at the start will become transcendently clear as the cycle progresses. Rheingold is scheduled to be performed in tandem with Walküre, reworked from its Scala staging next February (first night, 26th), with Siegfried coming in later in the year.

Glyndebourne

Glyndebourne has long been casting around for a successor to the Rossini whose concertos sent patrons away so happy in the days when Vittorio Gui was at the helm down in Sussex. Perhaps Haydn could be the answer. Quite a lot hung on the final production of the season, the first staging at the house of his *La fedeltà premiata* (*Fidelity rewarded*).

The case for Haydn could scarcely have been more powerfully argued than in the approach to the opera of John Cox and his designer, Sir Hugh Casson, or in the playing of the LPO under Bernard Haitink. The team managed to get around the dreary and arid intricacies of Lorenzini's libretto, which amazingly Haydn was not alone in setting, by turning the opera into an entertainment seemingly given impromptu at a country house party. Hosts and guests alike leave the side of the stage to put on the fetching clothes of nymphs and shepherds so that they can play out—and sing out—the lifting of the curse Diana the Huntress has put on the people of Cunnaw.

Casson's ravishing vistas of lake, grotto and parkland suggest the palace for which Haydn composed his opera, Esterházy. Yet there is at the same time a double take. Could this not be some eighteenth-century Glyndebourne as well? The idea of putting on a musical diversion for friends and servants is very much in the style of Caprain Christie. Cox delivers back into the artificiality of the most successful of his early productions, Mozart's *Il re pastore* at Wexford, a work which has much in common with Haydn; but he tempers the exquisite with a couple of brief and robust ballets accompanied by music filmed from the symphonies.

Julia Hamari and Max René Cosetti played the lovers whose fidelity is eventually rewarded when Diana (Eidwen Barry) appears in a full moon to bless their passion. Mma. Hamari took most of the first act to settle down to Haydn's demanding vocal line, but she sang with grace and tenderness after the interval particularly in her long Act II aria with horn accompaniment. Cosetti, who seemed overpowered in last summer's *Così*, has exactly the right dapper voice for this music. Two young American singers, Kathleen Battle (whose potential was noted last year in San Francisco's *Verther*) and James Atherton, brought an admirable vitality to the second, and rather less constant, couple.

The bed of the Rhine looks like the internal segment of a vast water-wheel with the inhabitants treading their way up to the surface. The Rheingold residents were doubled on stage by a number of naked Lotitas with frizzy blonde wigs, which caused a certain amount of local controversy but did not make much of a dramatic point. Pizzi said:

Richard van Allen turned the High Priest Meliboe, whose sins are eventually rewarded by a ducking in the lake—a very Glyndebourne punishment—into a caustic Flemish vicar. Thomas Allen, moving out of his normal operatic routine into a buffo role, was the other outstanding member of a distinguished cast.

The question mark over the evening is provided by He himself. The final act, a brief affair, is inconclusive and, with the exception of one exquisite duet, musically drab. Much of the foregoing score is delicately sweet, particularly under Bernard Haitink's loving baton, but there is a lack of theatrical muscle in the melodies. A touch of Rossini's dramatic skill would have been welcome.

Haitink's control of the *Così* revival earlier in the month was also beyond question as an opera conductor season by season. The men were stronger this year too, with John Alker (Ferrando) and Alan Titus (Guglielmo), both making their Glyndebourne debuts, bringing more character to Mozart's gamblers than their predecessors did.

The rest of the cast remained the same. Stafford Dean's suave and poised Alfonso controlling young American singers, Kathleen Battle (whose potential was noted last year in San Francisco's *Verther*) and James Atherton, brought an admirable vitality to the second, and rather less constant, couple.

The kind of special advocacy that Glyndebourne can provide justifies the production of a work there as unequivocally second-rate as *Die schweigsame Frau*. Under Andrew Davis's direction, the LPO played with polish, the score sounded rich yet always translucent in this sharp acoustic, and it was well paced; the sensitivity of the performance almost reconciled one to the debasement of the musical collage that is implicit in the work, where (for example) feigned love is treated in music so genuinely expressive as to be deceptive.

Michael Annal's set is good-looking but very cramped. Within it John Cox's production is nicely detailed but not fussy, nor as close to coarseness as I fancy Strauss might have liked. Several of the 1977 cast were still there, including the Polishly Baroque of Peter Corle, Jerome Pruett's pleasant Henry and the neatly drawn Theodosia of Johanna Peters. There was a new Sir Morosus in Martin Rindler, who did not quite convince as the figure of a peppy, superannuated English admiral, sympathetically though he took the part and warmly though he sang it (in the closing scene especially). Aminta was now

sung, with considerable precision and still more charm, by Kristina Laki—an attractive performance by a singer we shall surely be hearing at Glyndebourne again. Kate Flowers warbled wittily as Isotta and Joseph Rouleau, replacing Federico Davia, made his house debut in a witty and well sung Venetian—S.S.

Glyndebourne's season opened with a new production of Beethoven's *Fidelio*, another venture by the tried and true collaboration of John Bury as scenic artist and Peter Hall as producer. It is very plain and very satisfying to look at. The eye chiefly admires the marvellous yet careful lighting, bright and bland for the most part necessitating sun-baths for those who work out of doors, emphasizing the sunlight enjoyed by them but denied the prisoners below who are as much the subject of the drama.

There is nothing grand about *Fidelio*, visually: this production begins by proposing chickens in the prison-yard, bereft grass-widows waiting in the foreground and a flower-bed dug by Rocco while he awaits the arrival of Pizarro (on a horse, I am reliably informed, though it was invisible to prompt-side spectators). We were in unmitigated Biedermeier territory, even if a year or so prematurely—Beethoven, not Sir Peter, first tells us so, with his opening scene for Marzelline at her ironing-board and Jaquino on porterduty. Curt Appelgren's bespectacled Rocco, a true

festival included a splendid account of Ireland's *These Things Shall Be*, and an idiomatically informed one of Poulenc's *Sept Répons des ténements*, in both of which the fine arrival of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra was a valuable supplement to the excellence of the choir. —K.L.

Holland

The great attraction of this year's Holland Festival for an opera-goer was Götz Friedrich's new production of Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde* at least for one who was thrilled by the latest Covent Garden Ring, Swedish *Metastaser*, Stuttgart *Parsifal*, and Bayreuth *Tannhäuser*. But there was also a triple bill of ballet, opera and melodrama, written in the eighteenth century and performed as nearly as possible according to the practice of those days; likewise a largely French quintuple bill which included choreographic reconstruction of Sade's ballet *Relache* (the well-known film is only its central portion). And I was anxious to see Nono's opera *Al gran sole carico d'amore* staged by the Frankfurt Opera, which last year in Edinburgh had only facilities for a concert performance that bowed me over.

The *Tristan* began most unfavourably. Wagner prescribed a sunny afternoon on a boat-deck with a tent of carpets erected as Isolde's private quarters. Friedrich (and his designer, Heinrich Wendt) left out the tent and plunged the stage into inky blackness relieved by irrelevant concentration-camp searchlights. There was nowhere for Isolde to sit or to stand, and the music for Brangäne to tell Isolde had to sing her curse directly to Kurwenal, not Tristan, let alone herself, and at "arsensurubeide" she actually assaulted him, though Tristan is meant.

So it went on, a grotesque

embarrassment until the first interval when I was minded to flee. Act I was ravishingly set in a magical forest. The permanent set, formerly a sort of ramshackle boat, doubled well as garden, admittedly without visible watchtower or summer house, but an effective rendezvous for the lovers whose long duet was sensitively staged. Friedrich's searchlights from Act I reappeared for the entrance of Marke and his court, as the magic garden instantly collapsed. We were back in the eavesdropped privacy of Act I, and this time the effect worked, and the cross-reference clicked. But it is a false link.

Tristan und Isolde is about horrible day and desirable night. The second act takes place at night, accordingly, the first and third in hateful daylight, though night falls as Tristan dies in Act III. Friedrich unsensitively set all three acts in the dark, stupid in the first act ("Blaue Scheitern").

The triple bill was truly stylish and seldom stilled. Robert Lay's *Elements* was uneventfully played, the music largely uninteresting, after its startling initial discords but danced with a scrupulousness of gesture and step that made points to those who know later ballet styles. The dancers came from the English Bach Festival. Handel's *Armida abbandonata* was sung decently by Marjanne Kweksilber, impersonated by gesture and facial expression quite violently, but persuasively; she was far from static.

Jiri Benda's duodrama *Arriadne auf Naxos* (1775) was much admired by Mozart, who planned to compose such pieces himself. The orchestra made a decent run-of-the-mill with some Gluckish touches, points changing moods, while the text is spoken by actors; melodies are short-breathed, if only because speech has to intervene, and the total effect is scrappy though one can appreciate how it fired Mozart's imagination, since at any moment the atmosphere could become intensely dramatic. It was no more than mildly regrettable that *Arriadne*, set to a German text, had to be spoken in French translation, it having proved impossible to find German-speaking

actors versed in the pliant style of these and accented then customary, and nowadays resuscitated from books and pictures by South Australia's Rene Barnett, who was partly in charge of the production. Barnett's *Arriadne* and Christian Landy spoke and gestured effectively, and Ton Koopman conducted the sensitive Netherlands Chamber Orchestra.

The quintuple bill of stage pieces from the 1920s, presumably designed to frame *Relache*, included Hindemith's not unfamiliar palindromic opera *Die und zurück*, vivaciously done, and two of Milhaud's operas, *Les amants* and *Le petit chaperon rouge*, staged in jovially absurd period style, as well as Sade's *Relache* and Christian Landy's *Arriadne* (1913), given in Dutch and in a remorselessly jokey production which paid no tribute to the tenuous elegance of Sade's art.

I wondered, after the concert version of Nono's *Al gran sole*, how it could be staged. The Frankfurt production by Jürgen Flimm gave the answer, unprofitably. It looked drab, properly violent, but less exciting, much less beautiful, than the music which was again superbly performed, under Michael Cieslik, with June Card, Deborah Cook and Soma Cervenka outstanding. —W.S.M.

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La fedeltà premiata: Julia Hamari, James Atherton, Kathleen Battle, Max-Rene Cosetti

muscular account of the same part. Frederick von Stade brought touching youthful fragility and a numbing firmness of purpose to Pevélou's scenes, her soft tones particularly beguiling. Ann Murray's Minerva and Patrick Power's handsome Tolomeus were meritorious new assumptions.

The summer festival season was followed by a tour of three productions, in performances which brought forward, as in previous years, Glyndebourne choristers and rising soloists. Peter Hall's staging of *Fidelio* looked as honest and impressive as at home, though the tour producer, Guus Mostert, had to part with some scenic details (eg. Rocco's castle). Musically too, the performance in Oxford sustained the Glyndebourne standard, with strong, sturdy conducting by Nicholas Braithwaite, Philip Langridge's powerful, sensitive Florestan (the voice much bigger than when last heard), and a grim, determined Leonore, touchingly expressive, by Maria Moll from whom much may be expected. Malcolm Donnelly made a grim, quasi-Napoleonic Pizarro, William Pool an unusually positive Jaquino.

Haydn's *La fedeltà premiata* was conducted by Simon Bartle whose cast included, notably, Kate Flowers in bright, ample voice as the little Nerina, Fiona Kincaid with poignant, dark mezzo colours for Celia's music, Ian Caley excellent in Fieno's florid tenor runs and Jack Strachan truly amusing as the fond and foolish Ferrucheno.

Peter Hall's production of Mozart's *Così fan tutte* went on the Glyndebourne tour last year, and a close replica of the original. This autumn, at Southampton, the balance of characters seemed to have changed, making James Fidler's Donalbain more purposeful than Helen Walker's Fiordiligi, Catherine McCord's splendid Despina possibly more like mistress than maid, and Brian Donlan's Alfonso a "less than sinister" master of ceremonies. One might have expected that Richard Jackson's expert, savoury Guglielmo would dwarf an understudy, Ferrando (Alexander Oliver), regrettably, less convincing than his predecessor. The production, however, was wholly delightful. The part most credibly, though its stage manner was less assured than in the Haydn opera, a week later, where his Ludovico was wholly delightful. Brithwaite conducted this *Così fan tutte* in fine style, with plenty of grace and wit. The Southampton Sinfonietta was the orchestra for this tour, well at home in all three scores, even when hard-driven. —W.S.M.

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FESTIVALS OF THE YEAR: MUSIC 3

on—Proms

leads enchantment, but a little in the case of Crumb's *Star-Child*, apocalyptic farrago of and metaphysics, hailed York a couple of years a work of monumental came energy and tumour to the Albert Hall and to the BBC Symphony in 1979 Proms off to a rt as far as new music turned. The excuse, I say in the interest ed here by the weird of Crumb's smaller but in writing for large ind orchestral forces he say the least, spread his rather thin, and that o have been apparent the need for massed ers in all corners to rate the fact.

ly the next new import rom the finest pea of vski, who was present uct the BBC Symphony a in the British s of his *Les espaces du* and, next night, the Sinfonietta in *Paroles* both aural dreamscapes rench poetic texts. *Les* was written for Dietrich Dieckau but sung here Shirley-Quirk, whose ble serenity came not giving some substance mbling lines of Desnos, ile the orchestral music its own pattern of ad nages until a paroxysm end brought voice and violently together. As with Lutoslawski, this neat, well-fashioned rent and fluid.

ere in the series one etect a tendency to the backwaters rather in from seasons a ck to breast the tide jarde endeavour. Hence ice of the recent cello by the prolific and Danish composer olmboe, a work of and tidy construction a language of hard- nistic working now i red. Hence too the ion of a relatively socioclassical piece by lois Zimmermann, his ical which preed thing of brilliant in the hands of Heinz And hence the pro t of the third sym- Joseph Tal, doyen of mposers, whose music quarter-hour of rich, and veiled by the young French composer Patrick Marland. Israel Philharmonic bin Mehta.

ore adventurous now year came almost all rom British composers,

and also the more curious. Among the latter must be counted David Woodbridge's *Five Italian Songs*, which provided Heather Harper with a powers, and which gave the BBC players under Michael Gielen some practice in most of the orchestral styles of this century from Richard Strauss to Boulez.

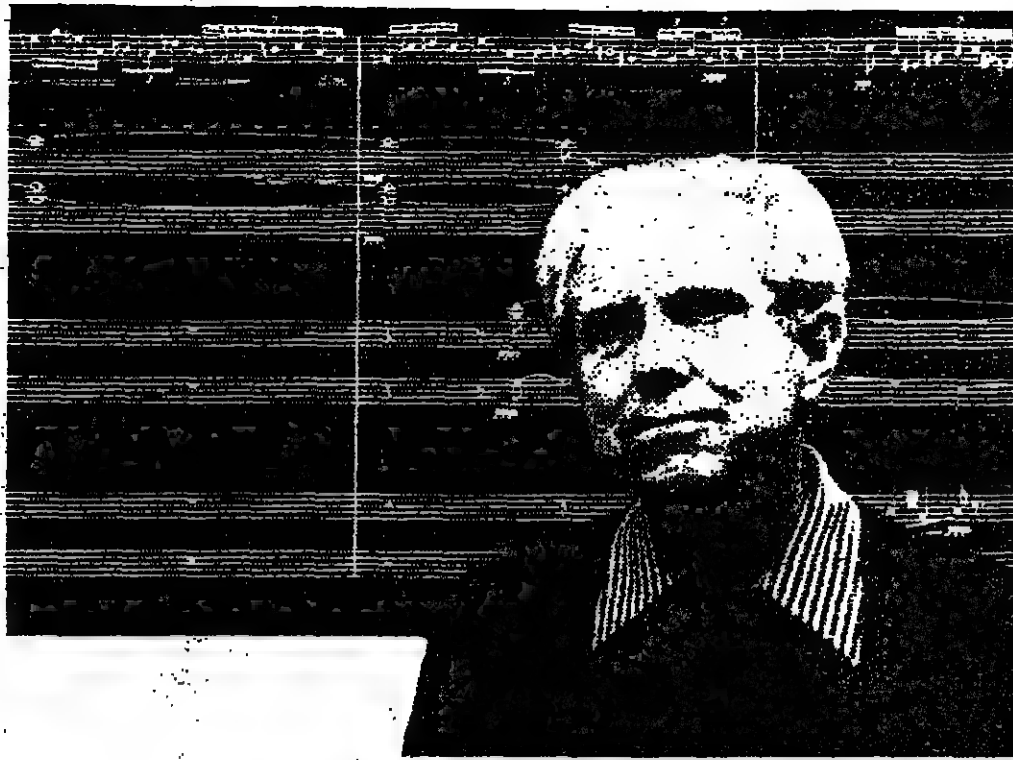
Also backward-looking, though more a work of synthesis than of magpie mimicry, was Nicholas Maw's *La vita nuova*, which was again a set of five Italian songs, but offering Renaissance love lyrics in place of Woodbridge's Ungaretti. Phyllis Bryn-Julson was the ecstatic and lovely singer of a part ranging through the voluptuous territory of Strauss and Berg, accompanied by chamber music grace. Maw's work was part of an all-British evening with the Nash Ensemble at the Round House (is there really nowhere else for these outings?) which also included the premiere of Anthony Payne's *The Stones and Lonely Places Sing*, a heroically ascetic tone poem on features of the new landscape.

Payne's slow, weighty urgings contrasted markedly with the kaleidoscopic brilliance and swift force of Oliver Knussen's third symphony, performed a few days later by again the BBC Symphony Orchestra. This time under Michael Tilson Thomas. Yes this characteristic piece seems to have cost the composer a good deal of effort: the middle movement was dropped at a late stage, and we were left with a strange diptych, beginning with a rush of multi-farious ideas, ending in a suspension of still chords.

Further thought, but certainly Knussen has proved both his formidable powers of invention and his capricious sense of musical continuity.

Even so, the new work which lodged itself most firmly in my mind was Harrison Birtwistle's *Time and the River*, introduced at the first of two concerts by Boulez's new Paris group, the Ensemble InterContemporain. With Boulez restricting himself to a programme of twentieth-century classic, Peter Eötvös was left to show off the group's alert vitality in more recent music, including the Birtwistle and also a rewarding and subtly formed instrumental movement, *Veritas*, by the young French composer Patrick Marland.

Birtwistle's title is no wilful enigma but a guide to his intentions in creating from poetic fragments by Sappho, including



Elliott Carter—an intense, profound symphony

the isolated syllable "agm", a complete and viable musical body. The result is a 30-minute piece of colossal wholeness, unfolding a generously varied world but keeping its sights on a central pitch and, no less important, a central pulse. It is a work which has room for ethereal vocal harmony and for the sharp intensity of woodwinds in high register; for spinning fireworks of sound and for the grandeur of heavy brass and percussion marching together. For me it made the 1979 Proms worthwhile.—P.G.

Scandinavian music was, according to the prospectus, to take a front seat at this year's Henry Wood Promenade Concerts in the Royal Albert Hall. Hopes of those who have explored a territory unknown to most British audiences came to precious little. Nielsen, for so long some sort of outcast at these concerts, was to be represented by his fourth and fifth symphonies—which are, or ought to be, standard repertory. In the event the Scottish National and Sir Alexander Gibson gave a rousing account of the fourth, the more welcome after much routine playing from orchestras nearer home, and the fifth disappeared altogether for lack of rehearsal time.

Emil Gilels played the Grieg piano concerto (an "occasion"

but scarcely a risk). Vagn Holmboe was heard in his cello concerto. Most notably, Sibelius's early *Kullervo* symphony had a Prom to itself. The performance, by the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Gennadi Rozhdestvensky, with the London Voices fighting bravely for command of Finnish, emerged as a prolonged act of ptery. *Kullervo* contains a bleakness of invention as well as of mood. The composer was justified, if only in his reservations about a work he withdrew after its premiere.

All four of Rozhdestvensky's concerts with his own orchestra were in their various ways provocative. His *Rite of Spring* challenged Stravinsky's assertion that "a piece of mine can survive almost anything but wrong or uncertain tempo". His reading of Rachmaninov's first symphony was a travesty, ignoring the scholarship that has gone into the 1977 Soviet edition. The symphony was heavily cut, and sojourns reorchestrated: the climax of the slow movement, unique in Rachmaninov for its restraint and indeed nobility, was adorned with gluckenspiel and tubular bells, making it sound like a Hollywood sunset. It is hard to imagine such a breach of taste from even the most wilful. If the BBC orchestra was involved in one of the season's

worst moments, it also played in one of the best. Elliott Carter's *A Symphony of Three Orchestras*, conducted by David Atherton, gripped the imagination and grips it still. This intense, profound and complex score was given a thoroughly musical, if not coldly accurate, performance. Part of the inspiration stems from Haikus, and the Philharmonia Orchestra, his opening solo, which verges on the impossible, was made to sound simply lush.

James Loughran, who conducted in five concerts (more than anyone else) found little magic in Beethoven's ninth symphony on the penultimate night or Mahler's third, which opened the season. The following evening, however, the Proms awoke to the attractiveness of Britten's neglected baller score *The Prince of the Pagodas*. Michael Lankster conducting his own selection of the music. The suite still runs just over an hour, and might well gain wider acceptance from further cutting, especially in the early scenes.

Nothing in the season was more fun than Elgar's arrangement of Mussorgsky's

Pictures from an Exhibition given by the Philip Jones Brass Ensemble. A virtuoso show-piece only gained from following a depressingly drab performance by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra also conducted by Howarth, of Birtwistle's *The Triumph of Time*. Nothing was more intriguing than the music and dancing of the Sasono Mulio Gamelan Orchestra from Indonesia, but here the problem was quite different: the concert had begun with an overwhelmingly eloquent performance of Maxwell Davies's *A Mirror of Whiteness* by the London Sinfonietta and Simon Rattle. On a still smaller scale (though not of volume) Timothy Bond brought a rare combination of musicianship and virtuosity to Schoenberg's *Variations on a Recitative* for solo organ.

The Israel Philharmonic and Zubin Mehta were received with predictable ecstasy in Mahler's fifth symphony, yet the orchestra sounded surprisingly uneven in accomplishment to those who know it from recent recordings with Leonard Bernstein: warm strings, idiosyncratic wind, good brass led by a superb trumpeter in the American-trained Glenn Fitchthal, feeble percussion. If comparisons are to be made among the major visitors, it was not in total superior to the Scottish National. Of our own domestic orchestras the Philharmonia, surely the most improved over the past couple of years, brought appropriately bright colours to the sound-effects that comprise Penderecki's first symphony. It was a special pleasure to find Riccardo Muti advancing so far into the present.

Composers of the stature of Boulez, Henze and Stockhausen were notable only for their absence from the programmes. There was enough modern music to frighten the faint-hearted, however, and this, combined with a necessary sharp rise in ticket prices, led to smaller audiences than usual—a fact omitted from Loughran's speech on the last night. But his Scottish humour almost did bring the house down, and at the end it was not entirely clear which really was the land of the conductor, in spite of the conductor's warning about the danger of the orchestra observing the traditional handclaps. Aung Lau Syme appeared to put the trombone section in a tangle; and Cedric Thorpe Watkinson offered an amusing novelty in his *Divisions on a Tune* by Dr Aron, wherein a very English sort of theme (from Thomas and Sally) is wryly, devotedly to strathpey and reel.—C.F.

FESTIVALS IN BRITAIN
a diary for 1980

March	15-29 : Camden (London)
May	September : Chichester 1-10 : English Bach (London) 3-17 : Brighton 10-October 5 : Pitlochry 19-June 8 : Malvern 22-June 1 : Perth 23-June 8 : Bath 27-August 11 : Glyndebourne
June	6-22 : Aldeburgh 6-30 : York 7-17 : Llandaff 14-21 : Portsmouth 14-29 : Greenwich
July	7-18 : City of London 9-23 : Manchester 18-September 15 : Promenade Concerts (London) 24-27 : Southern Cathedrals (Chichester) 25-August 2 : King's Lynn 31-August 13 : Harrogate
August	16-23 : Three Choirs (Gloucester) 17-September 6 : Edinburgh
September	13-October 4 : Windsor
October	6-25 : Swansea
November	28-December 13 : Cardiff

ance of Elgar's Englishness, sharing the composer's own economy of gesture on the rostrum, yet with the emphasis much on the first of the two words. It was a passionately committed interpretation, rich in detailed nuance, flexible, marvellously attentive to refinements of orchestral colour, and at the same time expansively majestic and finely integrated within its broad scope. Catching the spark, the RPO played like heroes, with precision to match their fire.—J.O.C.

Montepulciano

Hans Werner Henze's "international workshop of the arts" at Montepulciano, in the hills of central Italy, is primarily about communication and co-operation. A town which used to live only in the past is confronted each summer by a group of students and young professionals, perhaps half of them from Britain, whose rewards are measured in experience and enjoyment. Henze himself is much in evidence, as conductor, producer, teacher, inspirer, though as composer modestly less than some might wish.

This year's festival was marked by programme changes and by the fact that the big star, conductor, teacher, inspirer, though as composer modestly less than some might wish, was the closing performance, of Monteverdi's *Vespers of 1610*, and indeed the composer cast his beneficent shade across the end of a final week which had started unpromisingly. Jürgen Jürgens's edition, as conducted by the American Dennis Russell Davies, seemed a fairly practical compromise. The London Chamber Choir, whether in ruti or as soloists, fell most easily upon the ear. The orchestral trumpets, echoing one another across the cavernous church of S. Biagio, made such a sound as we should all hope will greet us one day.

The biggest disappointment was the non-appearance of Julian Bream, who was ill. Originally he was going to play Henze's large-scale guitar sonata *Royal Winter Music* and to give the world premiere of *Royal Winter Music II*. First he postponed the premiere, because he did not have time to learn what is sure to be a formidable piece. Then, at two days' notice, he called off altogether. Resource averted disaster. One of Bream's two recitals was replaced by the West German violinist Jenny Abel, who played solo sonatas by Bach (No 1 in G minor), Bartók and Henze with an awesome combination of stamina, technique and range of tone and dynamic. The Henze, which was written for her, contains a number of references to Monteverdi's

not in myself, but I portion of that around that quotation from *Childe Harold* with at prefixed one of his ces could, equally well and as his own motto, its implications of efficiency and stylistic in it helps to explain his finest works have falling short in music- ings. But, that said, music has ever rivalled eness of the world time-in art, literature, politics, natural beauty as well as music old and made them more Yorkshiresmen can be to John Warrack, new director of the Leeds for choosing the music on this year's main is artfully interweaving influences that nur as well as with what helped to beget. Where in the context of such could you hope to it's *Faust Symphony* or's *La Damnation de* hia the space of eight

with equal intensity. They excelled again in the overt romanticism of the second suite from Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet*, and in the programme including Mendelssohn's *Midsummer Night's Dream* overture and Elgar's *Faustfall* (the last unquestionably hard-driven).

The other discovery for many a younger visitor could well have proved Liszt's *Psalm XIII*, once a favourite of Sir Thomas Beecham. This work, and also a number of other pieces, is as far as the idiom goes, with sections of ravishing operatic lyricism alongside others of sterner cut, yet somehow held together by an all-pervasive motto—its metamorphoses serving as reminder of Liszt's great personal contribution to the evolution of musical form. Daring chromaticism sometimes taxed the solist, Robert Ferguson, but the Festival Chorus and City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra were much in the spirit of the work under John Eliot Gardiner, as they were again in the totally different Byzantine austerity of Stravinsky's *Symphony of Psalms*. Town Hall acoustics militated against the central fugue features of this work, but the last movement, and notably its close, were hypnotically enough done to "make you believe in Paradise", as Professor Ian Kemp promised might happen in his programme-note.

The programme also included Liszt's *G major piano concerto*, with Michel Delbert, winner of the 1978 Leeds Piano Competition, as soloist. Anyone then accusing him of reticence in characterization must not think again. It was a brilliantly incisive, exuberant reading, perhaps even a shade too succulent in the nostalgic but nevertheless urbanly sophis-

cated slow movement melody.

As deliver into the music of others, Liszt was indefatigable and, unapologetic. A concert shared by the organist, Simon Wright, and the Festival Chorus, with the newly-formed Birmingham Chamber Orchestra in support under John Aldis, reminded us of this facet in the context of Bach by following the *Weihnachts-Oratorium* (No 12) with Liszt's organ variations on the basis of its opening chorus. Despite Simon Wright's expansively colourful playing (as again in Liszt's *Prelude and Fugue on BACH*), the later organ adaptation proved no match for Liszt's original piano version of these variations. The concert ended with another Bach cantata, dipped into by Liszt for transcription. *Ich hatte viel Bekümmernis* (No 21), from which the soaring solo singing of Felicity Palmer (alongside Alfreda Hodgson, John Elwes and Neil Howlett), is likely to linger longest in the memory.

If for some festival-goers this programme was dangerously anticlimactic, there was first-class entertainment earlier that day at the Clothworkers' Centenary Hall, when the northern-based pianist Keith Swallow (why does he never fly south?) delighted us with his effortless and delicate playing of a rarely-heard, light-hearted and sometimes tongue-in-cheek miniatures by Dussek, Rossini (whose deliciously inconsequential "Un Réve" proved a highlight), Debussy, Satie, Milhaud and Poulenc—as well as Liszt in the rôle of virtuoso transcriber of Chopin, Schumann and Rostrop. Too many notes in these last, perhaps, yet what splendid trails of light and in the slow movements, music by Couperin, sensitively led by Stephen Preston's flute, in the Purcell Room, the All Souls Cordogion Library at Oxford and the Salle d'Herzliat at Versailles. The ensemble's music also included a newly recovered sonata by Charpentier, who was further represented by his beautiful *Asymptote* for Maria Maza and Sir Peter Eaton Square, and in the royal chapel at Versailles, under the careful and sympathetic direction of Mr Parrott.

A veritable feast of the French baroque, this, and, done with authentic instruments, its conventions of articulation and rhythm and its subtle phrasing had a life and a meaning that then prove elusive. The added dance too was to be played towards our understanding of this idiom, even though its addition—in for example the *Water Music* or a ouperin trio sonata, music never intended for dancing—may impose constraints on the interpreters.

On a lovely afternoon in the gardens of Versailles, in the Colonnade, we heard the hunt scene from *Hippolyte* and a delightfully fluent, relaxed reading of Bach's B minor flute suite from Mr Preston with one-to-part strings—gracefully and in perfect time with the music, vivacious in the quick ones. This was followed by a slightly farcical event in the Bosquet des Rocailles, where, with seeming appropriateness, the *Water Music* was to be played—but as soon as the waterfalls were switched on the music became inaudible to the large audience, some of whom could

at least see the dancers. But in all Handel came off well in this festival, one of the best of the events of the London season. A performance at the QEH of *Athalia* under the dependable direction of Sir Anthony Lewis, with some distinguished counter-tenor singing from John Yorke Elkiner and a strong brilliant-toned impersonation in the title rôle from Eiddwen Harry.—S.S.

Lucerne

Concentration on Italian music was Lucerne's theme, which in the year of the Respighi centenary meant an alternately sensitive and thunderous account of *The Pines of Rome* from the Berlin Philharmonic under Herbert Karajan, whose apparent partial incapacitation was never reflected in his performances. Opera was represented by the collaboration of the companies of Lucerne and Cologne in *Segno*, Michael Hampe's production, so alive to the possibilities of grouping and Jan Schlubach's simple designs, gave visual expression to Cimara's wit and charm just as surely as Ulrich Meyer's conducting captured its musical character. Fernando Corena's broad Geronimo and Claudio Nicolai's poised Count Robinson were outstanding.

Programmes explored adventurous, but early and contemporary Italian music. So the chorus and orchestra of La Scala, under Claudio Abbado, showed both strength and flexibility in moving from Giovanni Abbado's *Sacra Symphonies* of 1597 to Nono's fine *Il Canto sospeso* of three and a half centuries later, a work in which the composer clothes the text from various sources in both force and compassion. Nono's invention appeared less fluent in . . . *safferte onde serene* . . . for piano (Maurizio Pollini) and tape. In which this increase of ideas beyond a justified length ensures a welcome outstayed. This applies equally to Sciarrino's *Piano Trio*, one movement of doodling by violin and cello over piano, the arabesque introduced by the Trio di Milano (one of several excellent Italian ensembles appearing) in a programme distinguished by superb playing of the Schubert *Piano Trio in E flat major*, opus 100.—K.L.

Malvern

There was double cause for celebration at this year's Malvern Festival. It was the fiftieth anniversary of the festival's launching, and the hundredth anniversary of the birth of its founder and generous financial backer, Sir Barry Jackson, who is known to have conceived it while walking with Bernard Shaw on the Malvern Hills. A commemorative plaque was unveiled at the Winter Gardens by Prince Charles, who, also attended one of the concerts, and visited the centenary exhibition, "Barry Jackson and Friends", in the festival theatre's crypt. The atmosphere of those

balmy days, when festival-goers seemed to live in an insulated world of serene high summer, was captured in a programme-book ("long garden-party: mornings round the pool; hill-walking . . . talks . . . always at night the communion of the heart"). Headed by Paul Rogers, the Birmingham Repertory Company chose to represent the wizard this year by *Misalliance*, alternating it throughout the festival with Sir E. Elton's *The Elder Statesman*. In a most illuminating introductory lecture J. C. Trewin artfully contrasted not just these two comedies but the nature of their creators too. Despite such strong reminders of the festival's original theatrical bias, Malvern's other luminaries, primarily responsible for music's entry, was never long forgotten. Now slumbering alongside wife and daughter in the little churchyard of St Andrew, in a house he loved, Severn Valley stretching as far as the eye can see, Sir Edward Elgar again dominated (though not exclusively) most of the concert programmes—*The Dream of Gerontius*, *Sea Pictures*, the *Violin Concerto*, the *Piano Concerto* and *Violin Sonata* besides smaller instrumental and vocal pieces all found a place in this third year of the festival's phoenix-like return to its original direction. It was a happy thought to invite Yehudi Menuhin, who in youth knew Elgar well, to launch the music-making, not as soloist in the violin concerto (Pinchas Zukerman took over that) but as conductor of the first two concerts with the RPO.

Hearing a work as well-known as *Gerontius* from a baritone as young as it was a curious experience. Mr Menuhin's approach was devout and sensitive, but understandably not yet fully assured (once or twice soloists and orchestra got out of step or fully ripe in time he will surely learn more intensely to the drama lurking beneath the facade of oratorio and heighten the work's contrasts, with a more theatrical introduction to the second part, wilder demons, and a far more spacious *maestoso* start to "Praise to the Holiest" (though he made amends in a splendid climax at its end). Even if their full potential was not released, the RPO and City of Birmingham SO Chorus always responded respectfully.

Of the soloists, Helen Watts was "army compassionate, though her tempo for 'Softly and gently' was surely just too fast to extract its full wealth. Likewise John Hutchinson's in Gerontius's "Sanctus fortis". Deputizing at short notice, Mr Hutchinson sounded strained at the start, but he progressively relaxed and expanded. Benjamin Luxon was a noble Priest and Angel of the Agony, at once mellow and firm.

Mr Menuhin's triumph as conductor came in the second of the two concertos, in which Wagner's *Prelude and Liebestod* from *Tristan* preceded Elgar's second symphony. Here he found the "passionate innocence" which in his autobiography he cites as the quintessence

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FESTIVALS OF THE YEAR: MUSIC 4

Salzburg

Karl Böhm now conducts most of his Salzburg Festival operas in the small Festspielhaus. And this could be seen as an in-built advantage. While Karajan mounts his spectaculars with mixed success in the large theatre—this summer's new *Aida* engendered enthusiasm from the audience and wrath from the visiting German critics—Böhm has turned the much more manageable house next door into almost a private and personal kingdom.

The new *Ariadne auf Naxos* there might also be considered Böhm's private and personal opera. It was the first Strauss stage work he conducted and indeed the first opera on which he was engaged when he went to Graz as a répétiteur well over 60 years ago. The previous Salzburg *Ariadne*, in this same theatre and again in the charge of Böhm, in 1964 set the standards for many years to come. No surprise, then, that Böhm walked into the pit on the opening night to the ovation that greeted a covered and beloved monarch. By the end of the evening the ovation had doubled and redoubled: Böhm had rewarded his subjects with a quality of orchestral playing that made Salzburg's Festival prices look almost modest. The Vienna Philharmonic seemed like a group of virtuosi sewn together by a master weaver, producing a pattern of sound that was lush and mordant, sumptuous and witty by turns.

Böhm, who celebrated his eighty-fifth birthday during the festival, was not the only hero of the evening. Dieter Dorn, who produced *Ariadne*, looks not much more than a third Böhm's age. He had only directed one opera before, *Entführung* in Vienna earlier in the year, and that had won him neither friends nor admirers. If that was a false Dorn then here was a new Dorn.

Hofmannsthal's study of what makes the theatre tick over was updated from its usual baroque setting to the time of composition, 1911-15. Frills, satins and ribbons were banished to be replaced by the everyday clothes of the singers and clowns who have arrived to entertain the richest man in Vienna. In the prologue Dorn even allows him to be glimpsed briefly, accompanied by two haughty ladies through the doors of the servants' quarters. That, of course, is where the visiting artists are housed, cheek by jowl in broad beds and brushes, storerooms and

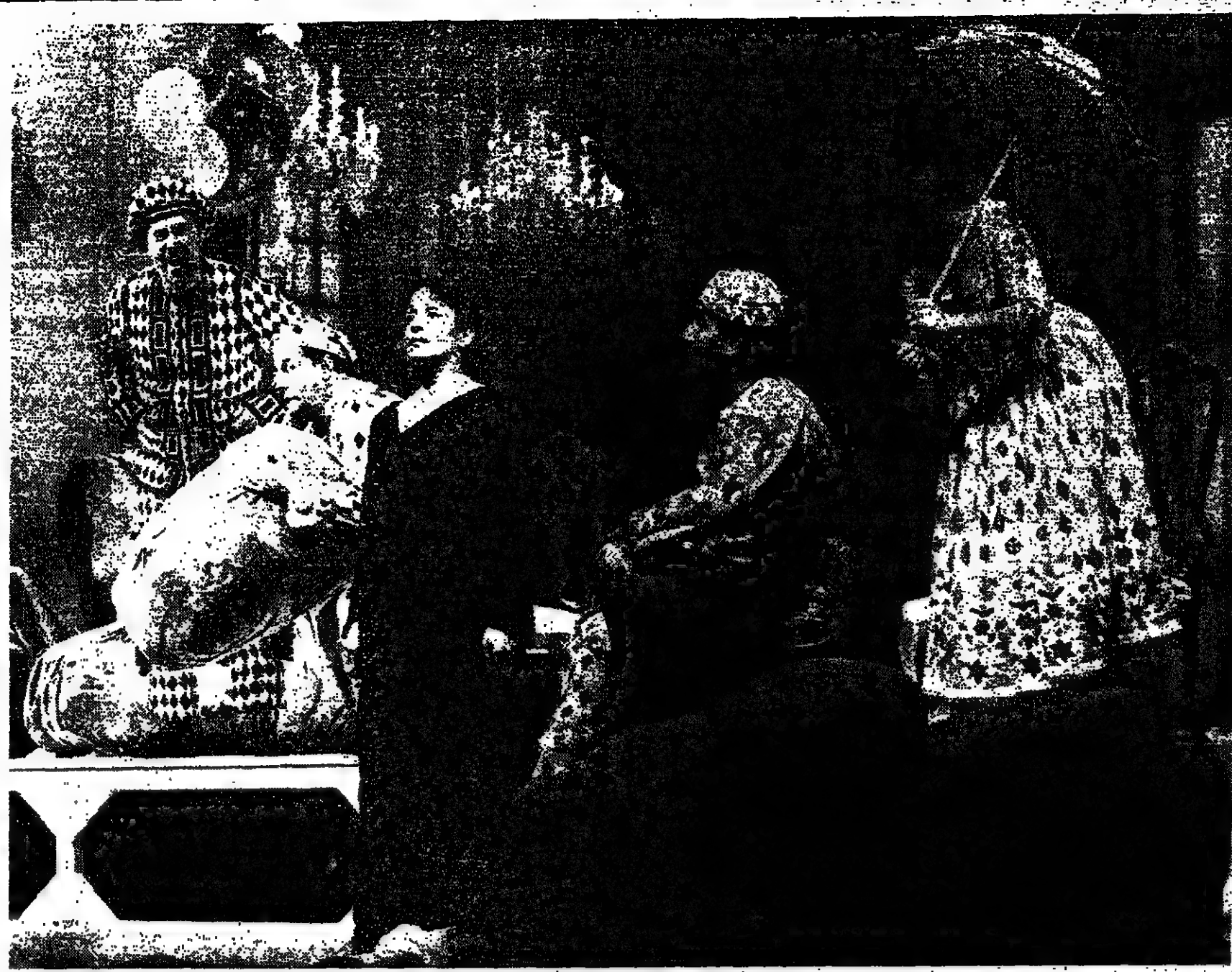
crochery cabinets of Jurgen Rose's timbered set.

Röse's frame for the opera itself, deceptively simple and probably exceedingly expensive to build, is a cream ballroom with chandeliers—something after the style of Act II for his Munich *Rosenkavalier*—which has been hastily converted into a theatre. Bacchus makes his entrance through the far doors amidst billowing aquamarine drapes representing the Aegean and eventually takes off his *Ariadne* into a blue, blue night made of similar material. We, the audience of the Kleines Festspielhaus, have much the same vantage point as the guests ushered in by Hofmannsthal's Hausknecht (a deliciously punctilious performance by Peter Matic).

The solutions given by Dorn and Rose to the problems posed by *Ariadne* are ingenious, clean-cut and precise. Updating the setting casts a spotlight on the struggle Hofmannsthal and Strauss went through to reach an artistic compromise, both between themselves and with those who worked with them.

The only risk is that *Ariadne* becomes an opera a clef. The Composer, in Trudehese Schmidt's trim and volatile person, looks almost like a young Alban Berg, beset with problems, goaded on by aspirations and then suddenly diverted for a moment by a prize face. A real aside. Miss Schmidt has been heard at both Covent Garden and Glyndebourne, but the appearances at neither house suggested that she could be a Composer of such quality, impetuous and un inhibited yet secure and warm in Strauss's vocal line. Overnight she put in her claim to be the world's leading Composer as Jurinac did. In a totally different style, here 15 years ago.

Edita Gruberova is already established as the Zerbinetta of the late 1970s—her hundredth appearance in the part came during Salzburg. She bounces about the stage, parcel of wit, exuding good humour wherever she goes; no wonder *Ariadne* disappears behind her rock in despair at such jollity after the start of *Grossmächtige Prinzessin*. Gruberova positively delights in the coloratura acrobatics of this showpiece like a high wire artist doing a series of pirouettes in the Big Top. Hildegard Behrens, in a smock of Grecian blue, completes a madcap trio of ladies, ravishing in her distress ("Es gibt ein Reich") and letting her voice soar over the orchestra when Strauss unleashes his flood of sound at the Strauss never allowed his



Ariadne (Hildegard Behrens) interrupted by Zerbinetta (Edita Gruberova) and her troupe

men such opportunities, and perhaps that is why the world is so short of Bacchuses. James King is no more than moderate in the role, surviving hard for the grand manner but letting too many sour notes get in the way. Walter Berry's Music Teacher by contrast is a masterpiece of observation, a kindly yet motheaten figure who lost his altruism long ago. It was also a delight to see the Dancing Master (Eberhard Schuchner) for once played as a suave and

authoritative figure instead a camp lackey.

The quality of this *Ariadne*, as *Die Fledermaus* as we are likely to see for many years, inevitably attracted attention away from the *Aida* which opened the festival. Ever since Mirella Freni and Jose Carreras had been announced as the lovers of the Nile doubts had been expressed on their ability to fill the Grosses Festspielhaus. These grew as the bad weather which preceded the start of

the festival took its toll of the cast. Finally Katia Ricciarelli moved in from Verona to "observe" the last rehearsal. But the doubters were disarmed: eventually Freni and Carreras won the day and it was the singers more often associated with *Aida* who were below their best.

Karajan was in no mood to disappoint those who expected this *Aida* to be twice as large as life and six times as grand. The Vienna State Opera Chorus,

which is not exactly thin on the ground, was supplemented by a Salzburg choir as well as the gentlemen of the Sofia Opera. Unseen brass bands lurked in the wings and sounded as though they were amplified. Ammer's boudoir had a swimming pool complete with nude nymphs.

Yet Karajan and his regular designer, Günther Schneider-Siemssen, have proved before now that the only way to play this mighty stage is to make it

mightier still. Egypt was turned into a vast state in which the inhabitants were pygmies dwarfed by the splendors and pomp of the pharaoh. The triumphal arch was flanked by two pyramids with the chorus literally roped on them to the first night it did in one case. The most evocative of the sets was for the third act, a vista of the Nile winding its way down from Ethiopia, which for once allowed *Aida* to begin and end "O patria

mia" with her eyes turned to her native land. The least successful was for the final act, which took place in almost total darkness. *Aida* and Radames, apparently, ending their days as two heads peering out of a remote television set.

This was about the only time any of the principals got within touching distance of one another. Karajan, to the fury of some of his critics, jeered any pretence of *Aida* being an intimate opera and concentrated on affairs of state being rudely interrupted by affairs of the heart. Surprisingly, this approach seemed to suit Mirella Freni, who played *Aida* as a lonely figure, a little after the style of her Desdemona in the last act of *Otello*. And it was undoubtedly her triumph in that role in 1970 which paved the way for *Aida* this summer. Her evocation of Ethiopia provided the most eloquent singing of the evening, yet throughout she was in command, lacking characteristics the best *Aidas*.

Jose Carreras confounded his detractors by the strength and resonance of his Radames. He scarcely has the stance of a soldier, but the voice has the clarity and attack to cut through to the back of this theatre as his baritone sang in *Don Carlos* had already proved. Salzburg in the 1970s has jockeyed the grandest of Verdi's later operas—*Otello*, *Caros* and now *Aida*—and Carreras can be well satisfied with his contribution.

The older hands were less impressive. Piero Cappuccilli, a rather dapper Amonasso, was rock-solid in his singing but brought little personality to his role. Marilyn Horne, who had been ill before the first night, did herself no sort of justice as Amneris, moving clumsily and responding not at all to the finesse which was constantly on display from the orchestra. It was left to Ruggero Raimondi (the King) and Nicolai Ghiaurov (Ramses) to bring the vocal level up to that set by Freni and Carreras.

Karajan has demonstrated on several occasions how much he loves this opera and there is no conductor who relishes, or realizes, its orchestral textures better. The contribution of the Vienna Philharmonic was consistently superb.

Next year the new productions pass into other hands. James Levine conducts opera in the big house for the first time. The *Tales of Hoffmann*, was announced that *Die Fledermaus* with Domingo in the title role. Loris Mazzoli is in charge of the *Entführung* in the Kleines Festspielhaus. J. H.

Stuttgart—Penderecki

The head of opera at the Württemberg State Theatre is Wolfgang Schwinger, formerly a music critic who has purposefully crossed the tracks into artistic administration without losing his old enthusiasms. In Vienna in the music of the Polish composer Krzysztof Penderecki, and in Stuttgart Schwinger organized a week of that composer's work, including the first European-based staging of the opera *Paradise Lost*. It was a festival of the Devil of Loudun, a chamber concert conducted by the composer, a ballet to Penderecki's first symphony and the European premiere of his violin concerto.

The last week impressed me more than anything by Penderecki since his *Threnody* of almost 20 years ago. The blottings of colour, washes of colour without definition, which he so long cultivated, has almost disappeared, revealing music with recognizable pulse, a variety of it, and melody, indeed counterpoint at times, best of all a strong commitment. Few can have doubted that Penderecki had the skill and the imagination to express himself otherwise than in vague incantations, but welcome home, all the same, we must cry.

In terms of colour and texture Penderecki's violin concerto recalls the first by Szymanowski (a superb piece, sadly neglected even now) more than anything else. But the difference is definitely dissonant in its portrayal of grief and gaiety, and much else: those who have followed the progress of Penderecki will recognize the voice, not so much new as clearer than before. The solo part was superbly played, accurate and full of feeling, by the Berlin violinist Christine Edinger, apparently astonished by playing it from memory, her eye-light being poor, even with spectacles.

Penderecki's second opera, *Paradise Lost*, is based on Milton's interpretation of the Book of Genesis, the expulsion of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden. The first production, in Chicago last year, was directed by Christopher Fry, whereas Stuttgart sang the piece in Hans Wollschläger's German version, which reads quite well. Even after reading it, I could not hear many words in performance. It is an honourable, rather than viable, opera. As a Protestant Briton, however agnostic, I must admit that biblical operas never strike after reading it. I could not hereditarily believe that they should not be staged, since we were taught that the theatre is a wicked place. We may change our minds, but which sacred opera is adorned by Protestantism? Not Saint-Saëns's *Damian et Delilah*, nor Poulenc's *Dialogues des Carmélites*, not even, I suspect, Penderecki's *Paradise Lost*.

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Wexford

"Have you got your Wexford tickets?"
"Not yet. They do strange operas there. You've got to know what you're seeing."

—Conversation overheard in Wicklow on the eve of the opening of this year's Wexford Festival.

Almost certainly the buying had been left too late. Wexford patrons tend to take their operas, if not their recitals, on trust and the Theatre Royal is full up. No one, though, could deny the unfamiliarity of the 1979 fare. Not even the names of the composers represented—Montemuzzi, Spontini and the Brothers Ricci—were likely to trip off the tongue of the average operagoer.

Wexford has a habit year by year of producing one outright winner among its trio of productions. *Crispino e la comare* by the Riccis took the 1979 award without being too severely challenged. The mood of the libretto by Piave, who treated rather weighty matters for his friend Verdi, is close to that of Rossini's *La cenerentola* where the worlds of magic and greedy humans come into brief contact. In its case Crispino, a poor cobbler on the point of suicide, is given intermittent healing powers by La Comare (best translated to pantomime terms as Fairy Godmother). Crispino makes his fortune, to the fury of the quacks of Venice, but in the end he, like Faust, is made to pay for trading with the supernatural.

Verona

It is not religious scruple but theatrical concern which makes me give thumbs down to this *Paradise Lost*. Fry's libretto is firm and clear, some of Penderecki's music truly imaginative with tunes, and a bass line, and harmony. Penderecki finds lively music for his devils, as for the first embrace of Adam and Eve, and for the angels' watch over their slumber. The nowadays obligatory vision of contextual parallels with concentration camps etc. had also to be brought into this production by August Everding. The decor by Günther Schneider-Siemssen looked as beautiful as expected, apart from one dreary woodland scene. Janos Kulka conducted a fervent performance, in which Günther Reich's imposing Satan and Paul Esswood's Death emerged menacingly. There was more to admire than to love.—W.S.M.

Storms, both actual and symbolic, occur regularly in Verdi, but *La Traviata* is one opera where the tempests are strictly unscheduled. There were signs of inclement weather from the very start of the third performance under Oliviero de Fabritis, the veteran conductor, at this year's Verona Festival. The husband opening bars were almost lost no fault of the acoustics in the open-air arena, which are excellent, but caused by the wind whisking the music away to the streets outside. Verona only loses one or two performances at most out of three dozen or so each summer and often manages to fit them in later in the festival, but this *Traviata* looked to be in danger.

Giulio Colnaghi, who was responsible for sets, costumes and production, had decided to blot out the grey tiers at the back of the arena with vast draped curtains and so put an enclosing arm around Verdi's most intimate opera. The principle was right because although *Traviata* is way down the popularity list at Verona there is no reason why the arena should be restricted to grand spectacles alone. More questionable was the decision to stage a *fin de siècle* *Traviata* with Violetta bidding a metaphorical farewell to a faded society, weary of the century in which it lives. This contrasts the vigour in Dumas's original novel and his play which followed it. Verdi in his one contemporary opera saw no reason to alter any dates.

But there was no disputing the handsome cut of the Colnaghi costumes. And he could

not have foreseen the wind which billowed out the pelms of curtains and tugged at the ported palms, decorating Violetta's salon. Katia Ricciarelli, the Violetta, kept calm as one of them blew over during the "Semplice libretto" and during the interval armies of stagehands came out to nail props and scenery to the stage much like a crew batten down the hatches in preparation for a particularly humpy crossing of the Bay of Biscay.

It was worth the effort. Ricciarelli was proving yet again that she is the most versatile of present day Verdi sopranos. The blonde hair, turned to a dark, wavy mane, was accented by a father's plea and left her love nest in St Germaine-Laye.

As she did so the rains came. Children sold ice blue polystyrene in a row, and the opera house creatures from a clip of *Cloze*

knows how to play the Arena, singing out clearly and with total assurance, yet managing at the same time to gather the vast audience into her confidence.

Romando, the Giorgio Germont, is another singer who knows how to win over the Verona audience. We are now so rich in Verdi baritone—Milnes, Cappuccilli, Bonson, Mazzoli—there is becoming a danger of overlooking Pavarotti's service to the Italian repertoire for over a quarter of a century. Father easily outshone son: Germont's Cecile turned Alfredo into a woe and a wretched figure. It was no surprise that Violetta acceded to a father's plea and left her love nest in St Germaine-Laye.

As she did so the rains came. Children sold ice blue polystyrene in a row, and the opera house creatures from a clip of *Cloze*

Encounters than an opera audience. Flora's residence was erected in place of St Germaine, with the scenery even more tightly roped than before, and the vast audience into her confidence. Germont's Pavarotti would continue his argument against the new set. And so they did, but only after the latecomers who had sheltered from the weather in neighbouring bars had returned to the expensive seats amidst delirious boos from those sitting closer to the rancidous.

There was little chance, though, of a finish. No need for Alfredo to throw his winnings from the gaming table into Violetta's face, the wind had done that for him already. The skies opened and thousands of blue polystyrene people dashed for their cars. A *Traviata* with a quite outstanding Violetta had been ruined.

Turandot, a couple of nights earlier, was a much calmer affair. Puccini's final opera ranks third in popularity at Verona, after *Aida* and *Carmen*, and is played in Mauro Bolognini's production as a Venetian spectacle. The people and dignitaries of Peking issue from the mouths of three enormous dragons' heads, as if from caves, and line the tiers of the arena under the moon, which appeared rather after the cue given by Puccini's librettists.

The performance demanded bold strokes and got them from Marina Napier, a fearless and commanding Turandot whose tones might have acquired a little more warmth when Calaf finally thaws her. Franco Bonisolli was the Unknown Prince for the first five evenings: he sings with little subtlety, but the presence is haughty and the notes—or most of them—have plenty of resonance. The result of the battle between his supporters and opponents in the audience was a score draw. The top marks in a generally rousing evening went to Mirella Sighele's Liu, to Bolognini and the chorus master, Corrado Mirandola, for their control of the vast forces on stage and, above all, to the conductor, Yuri Akhronovitch.—J. H.



Sesto Bruscantini and quacks in *Crispino*

years ago when a one-act farce included in a triple bill of Italian comic opera. It has been suggested that Offenbach added a number or two when *Crispino* arrived in Paris as *Le Docteur Crispin*—a kind of *Medecin malgré lui*—but it seems more likely that the Riccis, whether at home or abroad were well capable of providing all their own music.

Bruscantini's directorial skills were by no means confined to his own performance, admirable though that was, under a curly wig which helped him shed 20 years or so. Every musical point was made with masterly comic timing. Bruscantini also brought

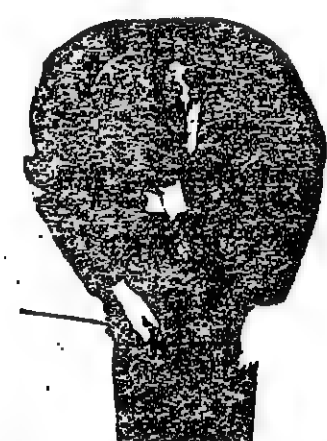
suitably fickle Comare: her appearance guarantees recovery but a no-show generally leads to a relapse. James Judd conducted the Televis Orchestra with all the required panache. The success of *Crispino* proved yet again that Wexford tends to be at its happiest in Italian comedy and certainly that accords with the taste of the audiences. The high spirits engendered by the Ricci Brothers, under Bruscantini's adroit hand did though over-emphasize the solemnity of the other two operas. Montemuzzi's *L'amore del tre re*, the festival opener, is remembered chiefly as a vehicle for star singers.

Penselle and Martinelli among them, particularly at the Met in the twenties. RCT recorded it a few years ago with Anna Moffi, who was much in favour with the company at the time, and engaged Domingo as her partner. At Wexford by contrast it sounded much more like a vehicle for a star conductor. Michael Steinberg (son of William) in this instance. Montemuzzi's tale of murder and revenge in eleventh-century Italy is unfolded as much in the pit as on stage, and Steinberg seized all his opportunities in a score which suggests Debussy crossed with Giordano.

How much of this Wexford story is the credit of the outgoing festival director, Thomas Smillie, and how much of the incoming Adrian Slack was a matter much debated in the Main Street bars. Suffice it to say that Mr. Slack mounted his first festival with a minimum of fuss and fuss. Wexford appears set fair for the nights.

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FESTIVALS OF THE YEAR: ART IN THE MAJOR CENTRES

Berlin

Opening a show of the Berlinische Galerie's holdings of Berlin art since 1960, the gallery's director remarked that this particular date in the middle of July had been chosen because it was the only date they could find in the whole year which did not have at least one festival or festive event scheduled. It was a joke, of course, but not far wide of the mark. Possibly because West Berlin is still self-conscious about finding a *raison d'être* apart from the purely political, cultural and artistic activities are deliberately attracted in a series of festivals and special events which succeed one another month in, month out, so that whenever you go there is something happening.

Not only that, but the scene is constantly changing, so that completely different things are going on between, say, the end of July and the beginning of September, the two occasions this summer when I found myself in Berlin. The first time the two big shows were a wonderful (if not always ideally arranged) Max Ernst retrospective at the Nationalgalerie and a large and not very readily definable exhibition called *Berlin und die Antike* in the Charlottenburg.

At least with Max Ernst you know where you are. He established early in the 1920s his repertoire of subjects and stylistic approaches: the moon landscapes, the dream (or sometimes nightmare) animals, the scenes of almost-everyday life with a few surrealistic dislocations, the masterly collages of Victorian steel engravings and so on. The effect might be taken in large doses, monotonous. But that proved to be far from the case. Ernst responds remarkably to being seen through large numbers of works presented chronologically. The development is rigorously consistent, yet as responsive as one could wish to the changing circumstances of art and the world: a film enthusiast friend with whom I saw the show immediately saw the point of the "saturated Technicolor" palette Ernst used in the 1940s, for instance, seeing Ernst as belonging willingly to the same world as *Fantasia* and *Maria Montez*. The familiar motifs are always the same, but always new—something only a really great painter can achieve.

Berlin's relations with antiquity are of all sorts and kinds, and the show arranged by the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut stirred on none of them, whether it were Berlin stage-designers' work on classical drama, Berlin archaeologists digging up the ancient world, the Greek Revival in Berlin architecture, the scientific problems of restoration and conservation, classical subject-matter in Berlin painting,



Berlin und die Antike: the Brandenburg gate in course of post-war reconstruction

the philosophical origins of the Akademie der Künste or a host of other vaguely germane topics. It made for a switchback progression, before visitors finally, helplessly settled for just enjoying the host of good things lying around and not bothering too much about how they all connected.

Meanwhile, the Akademie itself seems to be almost entirely vowed to the most modern of the modern—particularly in its association, for exhibition purposes, with the Deutschen Akademischen Austauschdienstes (DAAD), the body which funds and organizes the wholesale importation of artists from other countries to live and work for six months or a year in Berlin. In July might be seen there the recent works of one such artist, the Canadian Robin Page, who now seems to be combining in his *Parables* a series of super-

realistic self-portraits, conventionally painted, with somewhat Dadaist environments, rather as if Norman Rockwell had mated with Kurt Schwitters.

In September it was the turn of Howard Kanovitz, this time for a major retrospective, going from his beginning as an abstract expressionist, through some wonderfully mordant dissections of America in the 1960s, out to an extraordinarily detailed photo-realism and then back in the most recent works to an unmistakably "painterly" approach. It is funny how, not so long ago, the real talents of impervious modernists (Picasso, say) would be gauged by the ability they showed to draw realistically if they wanted to. Now one often tests the talents of photo-realists by seeing how well they can pull off an abstract. By this test, as by most others, Kanovitz emerges from this show as one

of the most impressive figures of his generation.

The rest of September's new crop was mostly retrospective. A comprehensive showing of Max Liebermann at the Nationalgalerie was rather disappointing in that, though Liebermann did paint a few really striking pictures in the course of his long life, his work is not very distinctive, and at each stage in the show where his work is compared with that of others—the Dutch realists of the 1890s, the Impressionists, contemporary Germans of academic and anti-academic tendency—nearly always they come off better in the comparison. By the same test, Come Amier at the Brücke Museum emerges with flying colours.

A Swiss who knew Van Gogh and Gauguin and later was intimate with the painters of die

Brücke, he was painting fully fledged abstracts (and very good ones too) by 1904, and had a dazzling sense of colour and composition which puts many better-known painters to shame. Why he is not more familiar remains a mystery—perhaps it is partly because his psychedelic landscapes and boldly abstracted figure compositions do not lend themselves to reproduction, least of all in black and white, but really have to be seen in the original. At least this show offers a rare opportunity for seeing a lot together and revising one's estimation of Amier a long way up in the hierarchy of twentieth-century art.

There is always much more around, but the most striking recent show was probably *Arbeit und Alltag* at the Kunsthalles. Like most of the shows at this gallery, it had a strong political tone, concerning it-

self with the proletarian theme in Belgian art from 1830 to 1914. This made for rather glum viewing, enlivened occasionally by such fantasies as the woman in Wiertz's *Hunger* staring her dead baby's leg. But little by little the picture was put together artistically as well as politically, and one could not see the exhibition without having a much clearer idea of where Van Gogh came from, what was the background that Verhaeren and Maeterlinck partially reflected, partially reacted against. Also, some painters little known outside Belgium, such as Eugène Isermans and Georges Le Brun, are impressive in their own right. Though many Berliners complained about the necessity, as they see it, of importing their culture like their milk, if the process results in so many excitements there seems little real cause for complaint.

Paris

The big centre of excitement in the Paris art world during the summer was the Paris-Moscow 1900-1930 show at the Centre Georges Pompidou. This was, from many points of view, to begin with, the sheer magnitude of the show, filling the whole of the large, fifth-floor exhibition space and then some with works which for the most part have not been seen in public for nearly 50 years, and have never been seen in the West at all. Then the pre-sold aspect of the show: as the third part of the giant triptych of shows staged at Beaubourg over the last three years exploring cultural relations between America and France, Germany and France and now Russia and France, it had built up enormous expectations, just on the strength of the political implications of the show, suggesting perhaps that the long-awaited official reevaluation of the experimental arts of early Revolutionary Russia may finally be taking place, having provoked an enormous amount of comment in France, where the politics of art are almost as vital an issue as the art of politics.

Then, of course, there is the inherent interest of the art in the show as such. It is curious that one has to insist on this, for what else should an art show be about anyway? But the interest (undeniable) of whether the Russians really meant to put on this show of the long-suppressed art of the Constructivists, Suprematists and other splinter groups of non-representational art in the whole social and artistic ferment which was the first ten years of Soviet Russia, has pushed aesthetic considerations rather to one side. And yet the first impression the show creates is one of bustling, bounding, irrepressible life.

First, in the pre-Revolutionary half, there are the bold colours and isolated primitive effects of the First Russian Ballet Period, then the challenging agitprop graphics, the iconoclastic typographical layouts, the free and gleeful play of forms and colours across canvases (or, with Malevich's classic works, the magical suppression of apparent colour and form), the demented architectural projects of newly liberated architects trying their strength.

Apart from anything else, it is a very jolly place which has been specifically in mind when he said "Rememberance is Beauty". One might expect a show the sections of which are largely non-representational to be solemn, boring, depressing, but not a bit of it. It is only comforting that these works, though so long disapproved of, still exist in the major public collections in Russia, ready to be dusted off and displayed; but then, others to show that there was vitality in plenty there, if not all of it too suitable for presentation at Court.

There was more Russian flavour at the Bibliothèque Nationale, where the big summer exhibition was devoted to marking the fiftieth anniversary of Diaghilev's death with a display of hundreds of costume and set designs, books and documents and memorabilia of all kinds. A lot less dramatically laid out than our own famous Diaghilev show of—well, more than 25 years ago, it still summons up vividly the first excitement of the Russian baller's impact on the west: one can almost catch a faint whiff of Mitoukoff drifting through the stately halls.

And then there were the more specialized shows. The Petit Palais celebrated the beginning of its definitive collection-catalogue with show of its holdings of Puits de Chavannes drawings and sketches, which created a curious, erotic impression of this apparently very chaste painter, owing to his habit of sketching all his fully clad compositions from nude models first. The Musée des Arts Décoratifs had a real collector's item in the shape of a tribute to the eccentric genius of Hector Horeau. Who? Well, Horeau was a French architect (1801-1872) who lived for some years in England and hardly built anything, but left behind the most grandiose schemes for glassing in the major boulevards, turning the whole of Trafalgar Square into a sort of Crystal Palace of art and industry, relative to which the Statue of Liberty would be but a child's toy.

Obviously he lived and worked through the period of the Grand Palais's show *L'art en France sous le Second Empire*, but his taste had been much too wild and weird to rate according to the solid, bourgeois taste which predominated then. The exhibition was admirably comprehensive and superbly documented, but finally very appealing, the stiffness became so oppressive. The pomp seemed empty, the vision of nature blundered, the appeal to the classics trivial and the romantic medievalism all too redolent of Madame Tussaud's. All the same, it is useful to know these things, and see the whole picture put together. And then there is the counter-culture represented by the beginning of Impressionism, the Symbolists like Moreau and Puits de Chavannes, and the then more approachable paintings of Courbet, Millet, Delacroix, Corot, Daubigny and others to show that there was vitality in plenty there, if not all of it too suitable for presentation at Court.

The Vikings are coming

On February 14th 1980 The Vikings Exhibition will open at the British Museum and run for five months until July 20th. The exhibition gives a glimpse into the life of the Vikings who transformed the political and economic map of Europe a thousand years ago. To tell the story of the Vikings about 500 items will be assembled from over 40 institutions in nine countries.

The exhibition is sponsored by Times Newspapers Ltd in association with SAS Scandinavian Airlines and supported by a grant from the Cultural Fund of the Nordic Council. To mark the opening on February 14th The Times will be publishing a Special Report on The Vikings. The report will be looking at the modern Vikings as well as their famous ancestors.

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Edinburgh

For many years it was a regular feature of the Edinburgh Festival to have as an artistic centre-piece a big exhibition devoted to one artist, mostly French: Renoir, Cézanne, Gauguin, Monet, Braque, Delacroix.

This year there was talk of reviving the tradition, with Degas, and that in effect was what was done, though the new formula devised for this particular show obscured the connection. The idea this time was to look at a whole artistic career in terms of a single year, 1879. This happened to be something of an auspicious year in Degas' work, during which he painted some of his most famous pictures, such as *Miss Lala at the Cirque Fernando*, which understandably graces the front of the exhibition catalogue.

In the main, though, the 1879 idea was a pretext rather than a real reason for the show. Degas actually listed 25 works in the Fourth Impressionist Exhibition of the last year, but unfortunately it did not prove possible to bring them all together again—in particular, none of the seven dance pictures listed could be borrowed—so we often got background material and other substitutions. However, the idea was good enough: we got good examples of each of the genres Degas worked regularly in, and by using the year 1879 as a pivot we were able to see just how he developed particular ideas and themes from work to work and period to period in his career, proving himself now in one, now in another (1879 was particularly the year of the portrait for Degas). In other words, the show proved really to be our old friend, the straightforward retrospective, with enough of a new twist to stir interest and start one asking questions. And in this case also, more than that simply, to provide enjoyment.

Three other major shows at Edinburgh came curiously, quite accidentally together, to give a multi-faceted picture of the 1890s and 1900s at the height of art nouveau. The most researched of them was *Art Nouveau in Finland* at the Royal Scottish Museum: few ever of the names would be familiar (Saxerius is perhaps the only exception) and one would be hard put to it in advance even to guess what the exhibits would look like. In the event, they proved to be amazingly at home in the Scottish capital, for along with a few touches of First-Russian-Ballet-period peasant colour and exoticism there was a lot of rather dour Northern chunkiness, a strong Arts-and-Crafts feel to much of the furniture and textiles and repeated use of heavy Nordic elements of pawky, Nordic diablerie which has its precise Scottish equivalents. Sometimes the correspond-

ences were even more specific—the interior design of Bailly Scott, the book bindings of Phoebe Traquair, the furniture of Mackintosh or Walton. Altogether an admirable piece of enterprise which sent one over to the other two shows, the Fine Art Society's Glasgow 1900 and the Scottish Arts Council's Kandinsky: The Munich Years, with much food for thought.

The Glasgow show, as well as offering a perfect strolling home for Finland, undertook the interesting experiment of bringing together the decorative arts of the Glasgow Arts School group—Mackintosh, Jessie King, Talwin Morris and so on—with the paintings of the contemporary "Glasgow Boys". The two groups knew each other socially, and it would be strange if connections did not exist between two such startling and immediate manifestations of creativity in one relatively small and hitherto not particularly active centre. But what these connections might be has not up to now been much explored.

The Kandinsky show again explored relatively familiar territory: the beginning of Kandinsky's international career in the vital years 1900-14 when he was living in Munich, undergoing the influence of the Bavarian Jugendstil painters, throwing it off again and reaching out boldly towards his later abstract style. Familiarity with these earlier, representational works often, surprisingly enough, enables us to "read" the later abstracts, in which we can see at first recognizable shapes—the knight on horseback with his lance tilted diagonally, for instance—gradually slipping off all representational connotation but still evidently there, underlying entirely non-representational works.

The early Kandinsky appeal at once to the mind and to the senses. The sculptures of Wilhelm Lehmbruck are perhaps more of an acquired taste. The show at the National Gallery of Modern Art gathered together a representative selection for the first time in this country. It showed a sculptor very much in command of his medium, extending further the classical tradition which had recently achieved a climax in the work of Rodin and Maillol, both of whom Lehmbruck passionately admired, and suggesting in his attenuated forms the way Giacometti would subsequently take sculpture while there is something in his bold simplifications of the human figure which suggests a certain type of Marie Lehmbruck killed himself in 1919, at the age of 38. Looking at his work it is difficult to believe that it was so long ago; unfortunately it is redolent of a later period—the 1930s—which at the moment hardly rings happy bells. All the same, this rare opportunity to find out about someone important of whom we know too little is, in a large measure, what art festivals are all about.

Reviews by John Russell Taylor

'PURE JOY' F.Times
'BLISSFULLY FUNNY' F.Times
'FRANK DUNLOP DIRECTS AT A SPANKING PACE' D.T.
'An evening that offers many delights' Guardian
'DORA BRYAN... MARVELLOUSLY FUNNY' E.Standard
ROOKERY NOOK
The 'HILARIOUS' farce by BEN TRAVERS
Her Majesty's Theatre
Haymarket SW1 BOX OFFICE 01-830 6805 Credit cards welcome.
"CHILDREN HALF PRICE AT ALL MATINEES"

City of Florence
COMMUNAL THEATRE
MAGGIO MUSICALE FIORENTINO
LE NOZZE DI FIGARO (Mozart)—DAS RHEINGOLD (Wagner)—DIE WALKÜRE (Wagner)—MADAMA BUTTERFLY (Puccini)—OTELLO (Verdi)—EUGENE ONEGIN (Tchaikovsky)—BURIDICE (Caccini)—LA PELLEGRINA with intermezzo of Archileo Bardì Cavallotti, Malvezzi, Marzotto, Peri (1588)—LES CONTES D'HOFFMANN (Offenbach)
Apollon Musagète (Stravinsky)—Night Piece (Berg)—The Unicorn, The Gorgon and The Manticore (Menotti)—L'urlo di Wedding (Tchaikovsky)—Fedra (Blondino)—Les Nozes (Stravinsky)—Orpheus (Henze)—Eugene Onegin (Tchaikovsky)—Michaelis Jugend (Stockhausen)—Sirius (Stockhausen)
Symphonic, Choral and Chamber Music Concerts
R. Muti—Z. Mehta—G. Gavazzeni—C. M. Giulini—M. Rostropovich—R. Stein—L. Berio—K. Stockhausen/A. Vitez—R. Ricciardi—P. L. Samaritani—M. Juncosa/E. Odras—S. Richter—A. Brendel
Orchestra, Chorus and Ballet of the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino



ASSUMPTION OF SOVEREIGNTY

Carrington has now committed the British Government to a full juridical sovereignty over Zimbabwe-Rhodesia with or without a ceasefire. He has done this by leaving the way open to the Patriotic Front to accept the ceasefire and to the Patriotic Front to accept the ceasefire. The Patriotic Front has agreed to the ceasefire, subject to last-minute modifications, in the next few days. That time is short if the Patriotic Front is to go out with a ceasefire signed. But even if it does not, we have not said anything beyond the day on the British Government takes its functions, it could in fact call the ceasefire up to the point at which nominations close. It is not clear whether the Patriotic Front will agree to a ceasefire, but it can then tell the black and white that they stopped the war and no one else could—was, is and will be theirs. The implications of Lord Gorton's decision to proceed to a constitutional and the final arrangements for the Lancaster House are that the British Government will never give up its sovereignty over Rhodesia, but in a de facto illegal regime only exercised in; hence a rebellion could claim, if it is, that it was a legitimate putting down of a (as well as racialist) It could be at once

revolutionary and counter-revolutionary, and the confusions and cross-currents of the situation have given its propagandists and supporters great scope. In so far as the Patriotic Front is intended to reverse the usurped independence of the Smith regime—and by precedent its successor however different in hue—Britain is indeed in de facto collaboration with the guerrillas.

The moment a British Governor takes charge with absolute legislative and executive powers under the Southern Rhodesia Act and yesterday's Order in Council, all this changes. Things become clear-cut. The intention is to provide a temporary protectorate or interregnum to hold the fighters apart and allow the ballot to decide the issue; but the legal effect is that whatever happens becomes Britain's direct responsibility, as direct as in Northern Ireland.

If, then, the guerrillas continue fighting—as the Patriotic Front yesterday implied they will in the absence of an agreement—then Britain is directly fighting the guerrillas. The British personnel monitoring the elections will be targets and will presumably fire back, probably in association with General Wall's units, which will then be forces of the Crown. The transition from the status of monitors to that of combatants would be almost forced on them, depending on the guerrillas' tactics. If they got mauled, the call for reinforcement is almost inevitable. This is a contingency the

participating Commonwealth Government must face.

Nor can it be assumed that, if the elections are pushed through fast, the British can then haul down the flag and decamp fast. The outcome of the election is unpredictable, as are conditions in Zimbabwe during it without a ceasefire. So, too, are the international dimensions to such events.

Some in the Labour Party and perhaps the Conservative Party will argue that without a ceasefire the Governor should not go in to assert this almost open-ended British responsibility. But such a reversal, technically feasible, would void the rest of the legislation providing Zimbabwe with an international acceptable constitution. In effect the Government would have to recognize the Muzorewa government as it was before Lusaka. Britain's ill wishes would call Britain's good faith in question.

There are other consequences, too, in the surrounding countries and in the internationalization of the struggle. It would seem that the Patriotic Front, in its examination of the opinions of Professor Schillebeeckx, they leave open the question of whether such an examination ought to take place at all. To many, the prospect of Rome's investigation of the doctrine of papal infallibility, an author may itself seem abhorrent.

However, Pope Paul VI, through his pontificate consistently urged that theologians within the Catholic Church should remain loyal to the magisterium, an exhortation that Pope Paul VI has endorsed on more than one occasion. The news that steps are being taken to ensure that this exhortation is being followed should therefore come as no surprise and is indeed welcomed as long overdue by many Catholic priests and lay people involved directly in pastoral work.

The academic theologian has influence in the pastoral sphere in a manner far more powerful than that which the ordinary priest or teacher has in theological circles, and if their guidance might be the right philosophy for governing a homogeneous nation state like Britain, it would not suffice in dealing with the long term problems involved in the building of a united Europe.

It is therefore necessary in the name of honesty and as an act of justice for those who are maligned for refusing to bend with the prevailing wind of "theological thinking" should attempt to come to a decision one way or the other concerning the writings of Father Schillebeeckx and indeed those of other theologians. Such a move should not be regarded as an indication of a "fundamental human right" but rather as a necessity if the task of evangelisation is to proceed unhampered by doubt concerning that which should be the content of the message to be proclaimed.

Yours faithfully,
TIMOTHY FINIGAN,
Corpus Christi College,
Oxford.

Answering Vatican charges

From Monsignor F. A. Miles

It is not surprising that Protestant theologians should defend the cause of "freedom of interpretation" (December 1). Such freedom is intrinsic to Protestantism. What is surprising is that Catholics should have signed the letter. Catholics know that the official teachers and shepherds of the flock are the Pope and the bishops. Anyone else who teaches, theologian or otherwise, acts as a delegate of those bishops upon whom rests responsibility for preserving the content of Faith. St Paul's letters to Timothy and Titus leave no doubt about this.

The Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith acts in the name of the Holy Father and the bishops in matters of interpretation of doctrine and Scripture. To suggest that they have no right to question a theologian whose expressed opinions about the Resurrection and the Virgin Birth appear to be unorthodox is surely un-Catholic. For the Congregation not to ask the questions and not to give the approval of liberal theologians; it would be failing in its duty to those who look to be fed with Christ's truth.

Yours faithfully,
F. A. MILES,
Theology Rectory,
22 George Street,
Portsmouth Square.

From Mr T. J. Finigan

Sir, Professor Leach and others (December 1) are keen to criticise the procedures used by the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in its examination of the opinions of Professor Schillebeeckx. They leave open the question of whether such an examination ought to take place at all. To many, the prospect of Rome's investigation of the doctrine of papal infallibility, an author may itself seem abhorrent.

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Yours faithfully,
TIMOTHY FINIGAN,
Corpus Christi College,
Oxford.

Weapons for what?

From Captain P. D. Tatten Brown, RN

Sir, The one weapon that can (and nearly did) defeat us is the submarine; missiles and bombers will merely destroy us. To make a start, we must have a "first step". Our Government should seek international agreement on the abolition of all submarines.

Such an agreement could be achieved by declaring that any found at sea after a certain date would be sunk. Submariners need sea training—I know, I was one. As a weapon it is of little use in peacetime; indeed nuclear submarines are a potential source of nuclear pollution.

I should be sorry to see "submariners" die out of the Royal Navy. They were, in the days of diesel and batteries, a light-hearted, fun-loving, resourceful body of men. Nevertheless, I believe we must take this first step in disarmament quickly for our grandchildren's sake. Yours faithfully,
P. D. TATTEN BROWN,
Grasspark,
Barnstable,
Devon.

A sorry pass

From Mr W. J. M. Speirs

Sir, In 1964 the German motorist club, ADAC, tried to introduce a signal of apology for motorists. It was a sign which the transgressor should smile and raise his hand, extending three fingers in the direction of the offended motorist. The sign was intended to represent the letter for Entschuldigung—excuse me.

Unfortunately the idea tended to raise tempers, due to mistaken interpretation by drivers who, when given the signal, accompanied by a smile, replied by raising their pointed fingers to their temples—a sign which there was no mistaking. Yours truly,
JAMES SPEIRS,
24 Kingswood Park,
Graysdon,
Hitchin,
Hertfordshire.

Plans for closures at British Steel

From Dr Jeremy Bray, MP for Matherwell and Walsley (Labour)

Sir, Many of us predicted the abandonment of the target of the British Steel Corporation breaking even by March 1980. But I for one did not foresee that the Government would maintain its refusal to finance losses after March 1980, despite the abandonment of the break-even target. The immediate consequence is that BSC is being forced into cash-cumulative closures. But even these will not avoid losses. The only alternatives left are for BSC to sell good assets at give-away prices to competitors; or to borrow at ruinous interest rates without Treasury guarantee by mortgaging specific assets; or lastly to undertake window-dressing borrowing with half concealed Treasury guarantees.

First, the closures. The suggestions of a further 32,000 jobs all being lost in the steel-making at Llanwern and the mills at Port Talbot, leaving Ravenscraig alone to operate as an integrated steel works for flat products, are seen by steel workers as vandalism on the part of BSC management. They can equally be seen as a move on the part of BSC management to maintain at least the basic structure of the industry intact in the face of irrational, uncalculating dogmatism on the part of the Government. But the closures will not leave any part or plant of BSC unharmed. Within Scotland, perfectly viable works like the plate mills at Dalzell and Clydebridge, the tube mill at Clydebank and the special steels plant at Craigneuk Works, will be threatened, as well as the remnants of steel rolling at Glasgow. There will be similar capacity in abandoned which cannot be operated profitably with an overvalued pound at the depths of a world recession.

The plants that will be maintained suffer more from technical inefficiencies due to the scarcity of highly qualified staff than they do from overmanning at less skilled levels. Where de-manning is required it needs the cooperation of unions, which has been forthcoming. But already, in the face of present political pragmatism, the European Community has ceased to participate in consultative machinery and withdrawn from all negotiations on manpower restructuring. Whether in building up or running down, the

Britain's stance in Europe

From Mr Robert Jackson, MEP for Upper Thames (Conservative)

Sir, In his excellent valedictory dispatch earlier this year from Paris, Sir Nicholas Henderson, remarked that while pragmatism might be the right philosophy for governing a homogeneous nation state like Britain, it would not suffice in dealing with the long term problems involved in the building of a united Europe.

The truth of this has become apparent in the crisis surrounding Britain's contribution to the Community budget where the posture of successive British governments has been marked by a failure of analysis, by the pragmatism of the day, and by a strategy of short term considerations over the long term.

In relation to the new Government, one aspect of this is the way in which it has been converted—quite rightly—to its present demand for £650 million more EEC money to be spent in Britain from its firmly held (but mistaken) view of only a few weeks ago that getting the Community to spend more in Britain was no part of the solution. I welcome this shift of position but

Government has forced BSC to forfeit the cooperation of its own employees.

The policies and circumstances which have caused difficulties in the steel industry will affect all British manufacturing industries. The steel industry is not unique. It is its capital intensity, making it particularly vulnerable to recession, its recent investment in new capacity, its affiliation by the stock cycle, its commitment to capital goods customer industries, and its exposure to international competition by the home market, that make it the first to suffer. But the combination of savage deflation and an overvalued pound will grievously damage all manufacturing industry. If the Government persists in its policies, it will destroy a quarter of British manufacturing industry within the next five years. And it will not be the least efficient quarter.

There must be some members of the Government who have some doubts about the wisdom of present Government policies. These policies stem from absolute reliance on the formulae relating public sector borrowing to the money supply, and the money supply to inflation. Will they at least read the recent Bank of England discussion paper by Taylor and Threadgold, which shows that on recommended inflation accounting principles, the real general government borrowing requirement has generally been modest or negative? Will they reflect that the recessionary implications of trying further to reduce the borrowing requirement is supported by Hendry and Deaton's work on the counter-vailing tendency of personal saving to increase at times of inflation? And do they realise, as Hübner has shown, that their current policies are rapidly increasing the net national wealth of the public sector, by writing down the real value of public sector debt and papering the rest of the economy? Is that really what they want?

Will Ministers realise that their dogmatic colleagues in the Treasury, and the Departments of Industry and Trade, are on the wrong track, that they have not thought through their policies, and that they have not examined the evidence dispassionately? Yours faithfully,
JEREMY BRAY,
House of Commons,
December 3.

I am uneasy about the speed with which it appears to have occurred and I hope that its implications are even now fully understood by the Government.

The fact is that there will be no long term solution to Britain's EEC budget problem while does not come to terms with the institutional factors that have permitted the imbalance between agricultural and other forms of Community spending that lies at the root of the British problem.

This is why it is in the British interest that the Community budget becomes what the treaty clearly intended it to become—a genuine instrument for the setting of priorities and the control of expenditure operated jointly by the European Parliament and the Budget Council. The Government's mistaken vote at the Budget Council two weeks ago against the European Parliament's amendments on farm spending—a vote which may now lead the Parliament to reject the whole budget—was a mistake because it subordinated this long term British interest in a proper development of the Community's budgetary procedure to an immediate short term tactical consideration (the appeasement of France in the week before

Taxing high pay increases

From Professor Lord Kaldor, FBA

Sir, The Chancellor's threat in Wednesday's debate of increasing taxation in the next Budget if pay settlements continued at high levels is likely to have the opposite effect to that intended. Since the ceiling will have to be paid by everybody, the real sufferers will be those whose incomes have not increased in line with others. It is bound, therefore, to cause trade union negotiators to ask for more, rather than less, than they would have done otherwise.

To discourage high pay settlements the Chancellor needs to threaten, not with higher taxation as such, but with a special tax on increases of income over the previous year, a tax which could be levied at punitive rates whenever the excess on the previous year's income exceeds, say, x per cent.

Though a tax of this kind raises many administrative difficulties—it might need a year-end assessment for everybody—these could be overcome. What could not be overcome is that any such policy would fly in the face of the Government's cherished objective of giving greater rewards to those who earn more. Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS KALDOR,
King's College,
Cambridge.

Mountbatten statue

From Mr J. S. Lloyd

Sir, Heartened by the support in your column for an equestrian statue of Mountbatten in Trafalgar Square, may I add a plea that his horse should be modelled on the one he rode recently at the Trooping the Colour. The key to its style, as the first post-imperial equestrian statue must be, is somewhere between Marcus Aurelius and Le Sueur's delicate little steed of Charles I at the head of Whitehall. But please save us from Haig's horse which must have been sculpted by a committee (I'm surprised it wasn't a camel).

Yours faithfully,
SAM LLOYD,
5 Picking Place,
St James's Street, SW1
November 27.

The Government is now advancing similar short term arguments for the acceptance of a supplementary budget now before the European Parliament, which would provide credits to cover the Commission's unauthorised spending of some £250 million over the past year on dumping dairy products on the world market. No considerations of expediency could justify agreement to this pernicious policy, which would do nothing to reduce one of the largest factors in the British budget problem.

Getting our way in Europe and making a success of it is going to involve our Ministers and officials in much more hard—and principled—thinking than they have yet displayed. And the way we will know when we British have learned to play the Community game according to the rules will be the day when we give up the present practice of scoring "own goals". Yours faithfully,
ROBERT JACKSON,
30 Eireland Road,
Reading,
December 4.

Licensing pornography

From Mr David Avery

Sir, As a former City councillor for the West End ward of Westminster I am worried by the howl of anger which has greeted the report of Professor Williams and his colleagues on the pornography business.

The horror which has greeted the suggestion that pornographic bookshops and cinemas should be licensed takes no cognisance of the fact that the bookshops already exist in vast numbers and that pornographic cinemas flourish in the guise of film clubs. To put one's head in the sand and refuse to consider licensing them will not make them disappear. Licensing by local authority is the only way to achieve the control necessary to mitigate the impact of their street displays upon local residents, visitors and shoppers. Yours sincerely,
DAVID AVERY,
48 Hanover House,
St John's Wood High Street, NW8.

Assisted places scheme

From Mr James Cobban

Sir, Your Education Correspondent asks in today's issue (November 30) "who is backing the assisted places scheme?"

It has the support of many who accept the proposition that as long as we have independent schools it is in the interests both of the nation and of the children concerned that able boys and girls from every background should have the opportunity of sharing in what they have to offer; who believe that selection by cheque-book; and who are reluctant to accept that there is no way in which the two sectors of education can work together. Yours faithfully,
JAMES COBBAN,
The Old Vicarage,
Sreventon,
Abingdon,
Oxfordshire.

Too much hot air?

From Mr Tom Hooson, MP for Brecon and Radnor (Conservative)

Sir, Most Government buildings, in which I include the House of Parliament, tend to be absurdly overheated. As a contribution to both energy and money saving and to human comfort, isn't it time we all cooled it? Yours faithfully,
TOM HOOSON,
Maesmawr,
Brecon, Powys.

Wolfgang Amadeus Losey

From Mr Fritz Spiegl

Sir, Karajan's Ninth, Klemperer's Eroica and Richter's Emperor? Yours faithfully,
FRITZ SPIEGL,
4 Windermere Terrace,
Liverpool.

TRIAL GRIP ON LOCAL FUNDING

and punts on municipal ponds may be provided council for hire, a council provides. But the council not screw whatever charge it likes out of it. Whitehall has to come by-law fixing the price, inalterable contract upon autonomy, together with 0 others, will be abolished Bill published yesterday's law. Afterwards, it will be trusted to let out for any fee that is able" (a pregnant word). Many of the 300 hisements are equally but all represent a saving tape, and some would only increase the ability wills to make their own

ie strength of this, the tent claims that the Bill's is to reduce central. Its overall effect, however, to increase their subsidy. The piecemeal of the Poisons Rules a Breeding of Dogs Act d so on, are insignificant the new restrictions on ver of councils to raise nd money as they see fit on capital spending, tight, will be made still and the government will first time take powers to individual councils overall spending exceeds el that the government s of.

EN THE CUPBOARD IS BARE

Steel's decision to offer toyees wage increases of ent, at a time when it is another 50,000 reduction labour force, could well be the kind of national hat seems to have been in the coalfields. Dr grieves, the corporation's director for personnel policy, told the steel leaders on Monday that sanization was "bust", a background of half-sans totalling £145m, and sibility of worse to come losing six months of the tion's year, he was clearly o more than speaking the This being so, it is diffi-s how British Steel can even an offer of 2 per d it may well have made a mistake in pitching its i this way.

corporation has indicated per cent on its wage bill cost it £24m. This is ore than it can afford, terms of hard cash in the pay packets of its es it is indeed a derisory It is understandable that m's leaders have reacted : they are, after all, being

asked to cooperate in further heavy redundancies, and they find it hard to understand why British miners, who are supplying them with high-cost coking coal, seem likely to be awarded 20 per cent or more while they have to make do with two.

But to understand the steel workers' reaction is not to advocate the payment of a larger sum all round. It is simply to emphasize that the policy the corporation should have pursued was to have the cupboard is bare, there would be no overall payment: any increases awarded would be a direct consequence only of agreements guaranteeing higher productivity in individual plants. Such a line might have been seen as realistic, rather than "insulting", and it would have been in accord with the new trend that seems, at last, to be emerging in pay settlements.

Since the new government took office, it has been feared that rising living costs would inevitably be followed by rapidly escalating wage settlements. In fact, it seems possible that earnings are now beginning to decelerate, as unemployment gains speed. A settlement by the miners in the region of 20 per cent towards the

end of this week could prove to be the high water mark in the current round.

The trend towards more realistic settlements appears to be borne out by evidence accumulated by the Confederation of Industry's "databank". It suggests that while there have indeed been agreements to pay more than 20 per cent since the beginning of August, there have also been settlements as low as 5 per cent. In addition, wage negotiations appear to have been concluded more speedily than in previous years. Wages council awards are said to have ranged from 9.1 per cent to 27.3 per cent.

Given the Government's dedication to free collective bargaining, such variations from modest to high payments were to be expected: some companies are better placed to meet extravagant demands than others. But if the apparent overall downward trend is maintained and consolidated, ministers may well congratulate themselves on at last getting their message across—that there can be no real and lasting improvement in living standards without higher productivity.

farther west." You expressed reservations about Plymouth but were firm on Taunton.

May I point out that the Rhonda, Merthyr Tydfil, Cardiff (West) and even Edgely Vale lie to the west of Taunton? Anglesy of course was a heartland of Druidism until its recent fall from grace, but it is pipped at the post by Bardsey Island which boasts more Saints per square metre than any inhabited region west of Iran. By this reckoning, surely, the Wisest Men in Britain must include not merely Mr Nicholas Edwards but Mr Dafydd Wigley, Welsh Nationalist MP for Caernarfon, who has been so eloquent recently on "the accursed tide of materialism and Englishness sweeping the country".

Yours Britainically,
GWYN A. WILLIAMS,
93 Pencilly Road,
Llandaff,
Cardiff (West).
December 1.

sponse to Iran

From T. E. Rogers

I would withhold the admiration of the President of the College (November 30) for the bearing of the American's sore testing. Nor, apart from the weight of presence and influence, they are singled out from countries including ours who are with the Shah's excesses as his achievements which, less forced on the western of a traditionalist Islamic too fast.

America and her friends themselves if they forget years' excessive of Palestinian and territorial rights in a bitter harvest of Islamic which has given a special a the feelings of the Ayatollahs, as they vent their tions on the unfortunate US

Go west

From Professor Gwyn A. Williams
Sir, I have been transfixed by your editorial of December 1 in which, citing the Reverend Abernethy Waugh, you assert that "the people of Britain become wiser as they go

Carry on nurse-as the money runs out



but the degree of seriousness started with the acts and in the present case they were not all that serious. Taking into account a number of mitigating factors, the appropriate sentence should be four years' imprisonment.

Mr Justice Chapman and Mr Justice Goffe, sitting with him, also agreed that the appropriate sentence was four years' imprisonment.

BELL'S
SCOTCH WHISKY
BELL'S

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

Prices on this page are now supplied by Exchange Telegraph's Eptic system and are the best prices available from London stock market dealers yesterday evening. Various indices produced by The Times, including the Index of 150 industrial stocks, are being reviewed and recalculated to cover the period of non-publ-



Iran could again cut output of oil

Iran is considering a further reduction in its output of oil, Mr. Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, the Economics and Finance Minister, told a rally outside the occupied United States embassy in Tehran yesterday.

He gave no hint of what the further reduction might be. Iran is producing about 3.3 million barrels of oil a day, considerably less than the four million barrel a day target planned after the overthrow of the Shah.

Meanwhile in Kuwait, where the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries is meeting, Mr. Ezzeddin Mahrouk, the Libyan oil minister, said the world market could absorb higher oil prices. Khalifa Bin Abdulaziz, the Qatar finance and petroleum minister, said his country favoured small gradual increases.

The price fixing organization, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, meets in Caracas, Venezuela, on December 17.

Most competitive listed

West Germany and Switzerland are the most competitive countries in western Europe, according to a survey by the European Management Forum of Geneva. Well behind come France, Sweden, the Netherlands, Britain, Belgium and Luxembourg (taken together), Denmark and Austria. Ireland is 10th in the list.

EEC index slightly up

The European Economic Community's industrial production index, based on 100 in 1975, rose 0.7 per cent to 117.4 in September (adjusted for seasonal variations) after falling 1.2 per cent in August. Production rose only 4 per cent between September 1978 and September this year after a rise of 5.2 per cent in the previous 12 months.

Talbot plant dispute

Madrid's Talbot car plant has been closed for an indefinite period because of a dispute over safety, trade union officials have said. The conflict stems from an accident at the works on November 13.

Cheap imports and high costs force fibres plants to adopt survival plan

ICI prepares to explain away 3,000 jobs

Management at Imperial Chemical Industries has begun what it calls a "massive communications exercise" aimed at outlining a survival plan for the group's ailing fibres division to employees. This could involve more than a quarter of the division's 10,600 workers being made redundant in coming months.

So far, cutbacks have been announced for two of the division's units. At Kilroot, near Belfast, 600 jobs will be lost, while about 450 will be made redundant at Pontypool, Gwent, where a £50m scheme to increase polyester filament production has also been discontinued.

Union representatives have, however, been told unofficially that further cuts in the work force are likely to be necessary at the division's other production centres at Danerston, Gloucester and Wiltan, Cleveland.

ICI is naturally unwilling to give details of further cuts at a time when it is scrutinising the business to see where savings can be made and improved. It is thought that the final total of redundancies will fall not far short of 3,000.

Already, matters in the fibres division have been reduced by some 7,500 since 1973. Last year ICI recorded a loss of £13m on its fibres operations and heavy losses are again expected this year.

The division's present difficulties have their roots in the oil price rises of 1973 onwards, which forced up the price of

oil-based synthetic fibres and, by putting a brake on economic growth, further inhibited sales.

Production plants, begun at a time when demand was expected to continue to rise, contributed to a world over-capacity in man-made fibres.

Restrictions on cheap imports, achieved under the Multi-Fibre Arrangement, provided a brief respite. But ICI, in common with other producers of man-made fibres, has now found that it faces the familiar problems. This time, however, they have been exacerbated by others.

Costs have been inflated by feedstock price increases, and what the company regards as the high level of recent wage settlements. The high value of sterling has adversely affected market competitiveness. Added to these potentially difficult conditions has come a rapid increase in cheap American man-made fibres, produced with artificially low feedstock and energy prices.

The competitive advantage of cheap energy enjoyed by American exporters may be ended as a result of talks now being held between the Washington administration and the European Commission. However, ICI believes that the effects of these talks have already been altered to its disadvantage, probably permanently. It accepts, too, that economies of scale give American producers a cost advantage.

The company remains optimistic that a "survive and prosper" solution can be

found. Mr. Ken West, deputy chairman of the fibres division, has told employees: "We have set some tough targets, but they are essential and realistic. I am sure that employees realize the seriousness of the threat to the European textile industry as a whole, and with cooperation and determination we will win through our present difficulties and emerge as one of the strongest fibre manufacturers in Europe."

Every possibility of cutting costs and raising efficiency is being explored. It has been calculated, for example, that the fibres division could save £450,000 annually if it used 10 per cent fewer polythene bags, woven polypropylene sacks, cardboard cartons and paper tubes. But no one pretends that such cosmetic changes can prevent the division undergoing painful surgery. The unions, in a joint statement with management last week, have promised to give every co-operation in the present examination of working methods and manning levels.

Mr. David Warburton, national industrial officer for the General and Municipal Workers Union, believes some jobs due to be cut in other sectors of ICI could be saved by a refusal to work overtime. In the fibres division, he accepts, scope for such change is limited.

"We recognise that the fibres division is in a very difficult situation," he said. "Its market is simply no longer there."

John Huxley

Monotype on target to break even this year

By Kenneth Owen
Technology Editor

Monotype Corporation, rescued from the threat of liquidation in November 1978 by the National Enterprise Board and Barclays Bank, after losing about £2m that year, said yesterday that the company should break even in 1979.

"Our projections are that that target will be achieved," he told a press conference in London. The company's sales for the year would be about £12.5m in the United Kingdom and about £6m for associated companies overseas.

Sales of the company's computer-based phototypesetting systems have risen by 65 per cent this year, and orders by 75 per cent. These were handled by Monotype International, the main trading division and one of three operating companies within the corporation.

The other two companies are Monotype Communications (word-processing systems) and Monotype (hot-metal typesetting and other mechanical engineering).

Exports are running at about 80 per cent of sales, and the company's machine has sold particularly well this year. This is claimed to be the only laser typesetter in the world. 51 of these have been installed over the past year.

The Lasercomp is an integral

part of a new typesetter, demonstrated yesterday, which has been designed to handle Chinese text. Monotype acquired the rights in a revolutionary keyboard invented by Professor Loh of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and the development of the overall system was led by Professor Gai.

Using a keyboard with 236 keys, about 5,000 Chinese characters can be compiled and set. This is regarded as a breakthrough into the field of ideographic languages, of which Chinese is an example. Two keyboard systems are now in use in China, one in Peking and one in Shanghai.

Monotype has set up an advanced development group located in Cambridge Science Park; among the new products being developed, Professor Gai said, were a more powerful version of the Lasercomp and other versions suitable for smaller-scale users.

Much of the NEB investment in Monotype, Professor Gai said, was going into the development of these new systems. (As well as the shareholding, the NEB provided £1,625,000 as convertible loan with a further £1,625,000 available as term loans).

Discussions on future developments involving the Chinese version of the Lasercomp are now taking place between Monotype International and the China Printing Corporation.

Unpaid bills threat to smaller companies

Patricia Tisdall

A warning that small firms could be in difficulties unless big companies pay their bills on time was delivered yesterday by Mr. Flannan Cornwallis, secretary of the Confederation of British Industry's Smaller Firms Council.

Mr. Cornwallis, speaking at a meeting of the council in London, said: "I hope we shall not see small firms being ground into the dust during the present period of high interest."

He added that it was all too easy during a period of financial stringency for a large firm to keep its suppliers—many of which might be small firms—waiting for payment. Trading terms should not be changed because of the new economic situation.

Mr. Cornwallis said that if payment was due 30 days after delivery of goods then it must be made on time. Otherwise, small firms, without "when many of the bigger companies could not survive, would be driven to the wall and jobs lost."

Nicaragua seeks \$2,500m in loans

Nicaragua is seeking \$2,500m (about £1,414m) of new international loans on easy terms to revive its economy. Señor Alejandro Rodríguez, director

of technical cooperation at the Ministry of Planning said. This would be on top of the \$1,500m of outstanding loans left when the Somoza guerrillas overthrew President Somoza.

He added: "What we need in Britain today is an expanding smaller firms sector, not a declining one."

The increase in interest rates was a necessary part of the Government's determination to get the money supply under control, in the CBI's view.

But "co-operation between large and small firms is essential if too many smaller firms are not to suffer greatly from the burden which a 17 per cent minimum lending rate places on industry," he said.

His warning is in line with a policy decision taken at the November meeting of the main CBI Council. The council accepted that big companies had an obligation to smaller firms when making adjustments in credit or payment arrangements.

Small firms are considered to be the most vulnerable to the effect of high interest rates. Also, when business is slack generally, main contractors tend to cut down work, which is contracted to smaller enterprises before reducing the scale of their own operations.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

House ownership and industrial investment

From Mr D. S. Robertson

Sir, In the prevailing gloom over the future of the United Kingdom economy two not unrelated factors emerge—over-investment in housing and under-investment in industry.

In 1960 19 per cent of total personal wealth in the United Kingdom was invested in private housing. By 1977 this had risen to 35 per cent. In the last six years, the price of an average semi-detached house has doubled. This capital appreciation is not taxable. Moreover, the mortgage interest relief gives such investment a considerable tax bonus.

Little wonder, then, that the United Kingdom is becoming a nation obsessed with house ownership. 54 per cent of houses in the United Kingdom are owner-occupied, a larger proportion than in West Germany, France, Holland and Denmark.

The reverse side of this coin is under-investment in industry. The latest investment survey by the Department of Industry predicts a fall of up to 7 per cent in manufacturing investment in 1980. CBI forecasts indicate that the rise in borrowings could give a deficit for industrial and commercial

companies of £5,000m to £6,000m in 1980.

The capital gains tax penalises investment in industrial shares at the same time as mortgage interest relief attracts it into housing.

In order to assert its priorities, the Government should make four bold moves:

(1) Abolish mortgage interest relief.
(2) Introduce a capital gains tax on the sale of private housing.
(3) Increase private rented accommodation by altering the law relating to tenancy.
(4) Introduce a tax relief scheme for the purchase of industrial shares.

The 1978 "Monetary" Act in France brought in £400m to £450m of new investment to the Paris Bourse.

Britain's concept of a property-owning democracy must be replaced by that of a share-owning democracy. Current legislation has resulted in an outmoded and unproductive economy.

Yours faithfully,
D. S. ROBERTSON,
Former Royal School,
Emmishillen,
Co. Fermanagh,
Northern Ireland.

Women at the top in business

From Mr Robert Arkle

Sir, In November, 1976, you kindly published a letter from me asking whether women were unwilling to pay the price of executive status in view of their then repugnance to move into managerial jobs.

Three years later the situation, if anything, is worse. In the senior job stakes, women's status is not improving, a failure, despite the reinforcement of government legislation and the benefits of marked changes in corporate attitudes. Women are still not coming forward to take up the managerial jobs from which they apparently felt excluded.

In the United States, the infiltration of women into the alleged masculine dominated business world has grown, according to the United States Census Bureau, from 15.5 per cent of all managers and administrators in 1958 to 18.5 per cent in 1975 and 23 per cent in 1978. I would be very surprised indeed if their British sisters have achieved anything like this.

Once more I ask myself the reason for this lack of female assertion (as often noticeable in other areas). Is it lack of confidence in themselves? Is it shyness? Plain laziness? Or have they given up the battle after being snubbed for so many years? Or is it the doubtful case, as the French proverb puts it, of giving them selves to God when the devil has no more use for them? I would welcome the answer.

We still receive many requests from clients, famous names in British and international industry and commerce, for qualified men and women to fill jobs in the consumer goods or service industries. But, after advertising competitive salaries and benefits and demanding nothing unusual in the way of desirable experience, frequently not one woman comes forward! Why?

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT ARKLE,
Chairman,
Robert Lee International,
24 Berkeley Square,
London W1X 8AR,
November 23.

Steel losses

From Mr Anthony Bradbury
Sir, I am disconcerted to learn that the loss that I will pay to the nation in my working life is being squandered by the British Steel Corporation in 30 minutes.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY BRADBURY,
3 Winchester Park,
Bromley,
Kent.
December 1

HALIFAX

INTEREST RATES UP

5 YEAR TERM SHARES
UPTO 12.50 % NET

MONTHLY SAVINGS PLAN
UPTO 11.75 % NET

PAID-UP SHARES
UPTO 10.50 % NET

Because interest rates on these saving schemes went up on 1st December, you can now get an even better return for your money at the Halifax Building Society.

5 Year Term Shares now 12.50% net (17.86% gross).

Monthly Savings Plan now 11.75% net (16.79% gross).

Paid-Up Shares now 10.50% net (15.00% gross).

All other Term Share interest rates are up too.

So there's never been a better time to put your money to work with the biggest building society in the world.

These gross rates apply if you pay income tax at the basic rate of 30%. 5 Year Term Shares include a guaranteed premium (in addition to the Paid-Up Share rate, which is variable) of 2%.



Now the Halifax is an even bigger hit with savers.

HALIFAX
BUILDING SOCIETY

هنا من النظم

This Advertisement is issued in compliance with the Regulations of the Council of The Stock Exchange. It is not an invitation to purchase shares.



Spring Grove Services Limited

Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the whole of the issued share capital of Spring Grove Services Limited ("Spring Grove") to be admitted to the Official List.

Share Capital

Authorised

£3,000,000

Issued and fully paid

Ordinary shares of 10p each

£2,500,000

Particulars relating to Spring Grove are available in the Extel Statistical Services. Copies of the Extel Card may be obtained until 19th December 1979 from:

Charterhouse Japhel Limited,
1 Paternoster Row,
St. Pauls,
London EC4M 7DH.

Grieveson, Grant and Co.,
59 Gresham Street,
London EC2P 2DS.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Obstacles in the gilt market

Yesterday's figures showing our foreign currency reserves little changed in November offered no particularly strong message for financial markets. Presumably, however, the month saw some fairly substantial private sector outflows across the exchanges and, in the second half of the month, increased overseas buying of sterling in response to the domestic interest rate increase and the impact of the worsening Iranian situation on the dollar.

Of more immediate significance for the gilt market is today's call on Treasury 133 per cent 2000-03. This will drain the market of £710m. Together with probable sales of several hundred million of the short/medium "tap", this should add up to a respectable amount of funding as far as the authorities are concerned for banking December—though how much of the new stocks will have finished up in the hands of the non-bank private sector is another question.

Certainly, the market will be hoping that the December money supply figures will start to show some improvement—it is not expecting anything particularly encouraging from next week's November banking figures—but the December figures will not of course, be our best for the New Year.

Meanwhile, the market is already largely discounting a "reasonable" settlement of the miners' pay claim and good news on this front is not likely to cause any fireworks. If it speeds up the running out of the remaining short-term "tap", that may encourage the short-end of the market, but, overall, the market already seems to be setting into pre-Christmas lethargy.

Ranks Hovis Slicing up a smaller market

Ranks Hovis McDougall surprised even itself with a full-year profits rise of 3 per cent to £32.6m. Having been hit badly by the bakery strike in the first-half, the group had warned at the interim stage that second-half profits were also likely to fall.

However, profitability in bread-baking has improved more dramatically than expected since Spillers withdrew from the scene and the two main survivors made their own rationalization moves. At the same time RHM and Associated British Foods have managed to recoup perhaps three-quarters of the market share yielded to independents as a result of the strike.

Now with a 2 1/2 bread price rise coming into effect and the latest industry wage round completed without bloodshed RHM looks set for significant recovery next year. True, milling profits are coming under pressure despite the price rises forced through by Spillers during its fight to stave off the Dalgely bid while the long-term decline in bread consumption is not abating.

In this case pre-tax profits of possibly £45m next year may represent little more than a breathing space in the long-term decline of a major food group. Ranks, however, new seems to be looking at options more squarely in the face. Sale of the Canadian subsidiary leaves the group with cash to spend in the United States and further overseas developments are likely in spite of pressure on the balance sheet.

The shares up 3p to 47p yesterday, yield just under 11 per cent thanks to a maintained payment and a p/e ratio of under 7 could start looking to the future a little more hopefully than has been the case in the past four years.

Mergers

Thoughts for the future

It is strange perhaps, but while mergers or takeovers present relatively few technical problems outside the market place, the idea of spinning off a subsidiary poses hideous tax and legal difficulties.

The prospect of making it easier for companies to break-off an asset, either for the direct benefit of shareholders or otherwise,

is one that attracts this Government. A study group, set-up by the Department of Trade is now looking at the situation. If its research produces interesting and feasible ideas, they could find their way into a second Competition Bill during this Parliament.

There is no great urgency about this nor could there be given the formidable workload, but nevertheless such thinking demonstrates that this administration like its predecessors is frustrated (albeit for different reasons) with the *ad hoc* nature of present merger policy.

A Competition Bill, due for Royal Assent by the end of the year, will help. Both the Office of Fair Trading and the Monopolies Commission will get greater powers. This in turn should streamline the vetting procedure for mergers.

But the Government, which is against conglomeration for its own sake, is anxious to instil some different thinking into boardrooms. Those who come to the view that a large part of their business could usefully stand on its own feet or indeed that it has become irrelevant to the main part of the business should be encouraged to "demerge", not through active Government interference of course but because the difficulties of doing so are removed.

Companies hiving-off an asset now either attract a capital gain tax liability (which may be fair enough) or, if they want to distribute the proceeds, land their shareholders with a heavy income tax liability, often at top rates and with investment income surcharge.

Almost always they shy away from the idea because of this, though some who have found ways through the maze.

Finding a way of excluding such distributions from the income-tax net is obviously difficult, but opponents of the Revenue position argue that shareholders have no more than they had before the disposal, only that their company has decided to seek the best possible price for part of their asset.

Plessey

Second-half confidence

After battling for so long to escape from its profits wilderness, Plessey has been a bit unlucky to see its first quarter recovery nipped in the bud by strikes which have hit the weak telecommunications side hardest and cut operating profits some £5m in the second quarter.

But there does seem to be a more optimistic approach to the future from Plessey's new management—with the group looking for higher second-half profits after the two-fifths drop in the second quarter to £5.25m pre-tax—compared with the pessimism of former years.

As it is on sales a tenth higher at £334m, operating profits emerge level-paging for the half year at £21.5m but there has been a 54 per cent drop in the associated contribution since the sale of its ICL holding adverse currency savings and interest charges, on a lower level of borrowing, have crept up to leave pre-tax profits a seventh down at £19.4m.

Plessey's confidence in the second-half stems from the strength of its order book. This is part the result of lost production due to the strikes but apart from this the quarter rise from last year to £500m represents fairly good volume growth across the board.

But Messrs will be working flat out to make up lost sales which will stretch working capital (and perhaps plant capacity, especially in telecommunications) and could raise the borrowing as a proportion of shareholders' funds by around 5 points from the present 30.9 per cent.

The sale of Garrard has removed the problems in consumer electronics while unprofitable telecommunications contracts are coming to an end. Full-year profits, however, are unlikely to be more than £50m for a fully taxed p/e ratio of about 10 at 108p. The prospective yield assuming Plessey keeps up its progressive dividend policy is around 94 per cent but now that Ragsdale appears to have passed Plessey by in its plans for the future of the electronics industry, the shares are starting to look vulnerable.

PARIS is in the middle of a hectic election campaign. Posters are going up on walls, lamp-posts and the outside of lavatories everywhere in the traditional French fashion. Television is giving valuable airtime to what amounts to political party broadcasts and posters and buses are commonplace.

At stake are the votes of 14 million French workers, and two million French employers in the first ever general tax-payers' election in France and possibly the most important of the kind. Only those who pay or receive pay in the private sector are eligible to vote and the poll is being seen by both unions and management as a test of their respective strengths.

The candidates they are voting for are not meant to be political, but at present that is a difficult thing to tell. They are in fact standing for the post of *Prud'homme* in the traditional industrial tribunals of France.

A *Prud'homme* is a man of experience and integrity. Collectively they were institutionalized by Napoleon, who in 1808 introduced the call of the silk weavers of Lyons to restore a system of arbitration in industrial disputes because the old system through the trade corporations had been destroyed by the Revolution.

The councils established by Napoleon were initially made up only of employers, but in 1848 they were extended to include certain categories of unionized workers. These had the right both to sit on the council and to vote for representatives on it. With various minor amendments that is the way the system remained for more than a quarter of a century.

Reforms were clearly needed if the councils were to remain relevant in the modern world. As they were—and will be until mid-January—chev art himself. The law he drafted was eventually passed by both the National Assembly and Senate in only slightly modified form.

The present ancient system has 270 councils in which sit a

total of 6,500 *Prud'hommes*. But it is badly flawed; several departments of the country do not even have one; agriculture is only the most important of the professions not covered by the councils; above all, the increasing volume of work referred to them has meant that many of them have no more than two years or even more a hearings.

The *Prud'hommes* themselves are elected by employers and workers, but only those who have both satisfied a number of conditions and have bothered to register are qualified for vote. At the last election in 1975 there were only 900,000 workers on the register and only 251,000 of these went to the trouble of voting.

The councils themselves are composed equally of representatives of the two sides, this has increasingly slowed their work over the years because of the growth of union militancy, which has created in return mountain management intransigence.

While only 10 years ago 45 per cent of cases were settled by the councils, today the figure is about 15 per cent. Since there are on average about 90,000 cases a year this means that more than 75,000 a year can go on to appeal, cluttering up the law courts.

The purpose of the reforms has therefore been threefold—first, to enlarge the system so that it provides more councils covering the whole of the country; secondly to enlarge their responsibilities; and third, to try to "depoliticize" them.

The first objective has been achieved without any real trouble. Each French judicial area will now have its own council, each with at least 20 members, bringing the total number to about 12,000. Enlarging the type of work they can do has caused more trouble. The reforms mean that from now on each council will have five sections, one each for industry, commerce, agriculture and a miscellaneous category including such jobs as servants and cleaners. The fifth section is the one that has caused the most trouble. It is for what the French call *cadres*—an untranslatable word usually rendered as "white-collar middle management". The fact that

the French are a little unclear about it, too, is shown by the fact that the employers and one union have applied to the state council for a definition of a *cadre* and have been told it will take six months to draw it up after the elections have taken place.

It is in the area of voting that most of the trouble lies, for the reforms are aimed as much as anything at taking the politics out of the councils so that they can get back to the job of resolving labour disputes.

Under the old system candidates—especially from the union side—tended to be militant and probably politically motivated.

Next week's elections give every single worker the right to vote, assuming each employer has complied with the requirement to register everyone on the pay roll. Only one worker in four is a union member in France, so even though the rate of apathy among the non-unionists may well be high, the number of eligible voters is so large that it must tend to water down the vote for militant candidates.

But more important than the sheer number is the fact that the elections are being held on a proportional basis. Not surprisingly, the CGT is furious about this while the socialist Confederation Française Démocratique du Travail

(CFDT) and the moderate Force Ouvrière (FO)—both of which have done badly in the past—are pleased.

At the same time the unions are worried that workers' candidates have not been restricted to "union members". They believe this could result in independents who are merely employers' stooges, being elected.

The result of it all is, though, that the unions find themselves for the first time in 17 years (in 1962 all workers could vote for representatives to the social security administration councils) with an opportunity to see what their support in the country really is.

So all the unions are going in for blatant electioneering. The *Prud'homme*, as each leader prides the virtue of his own organisation and pours scorn on the others.

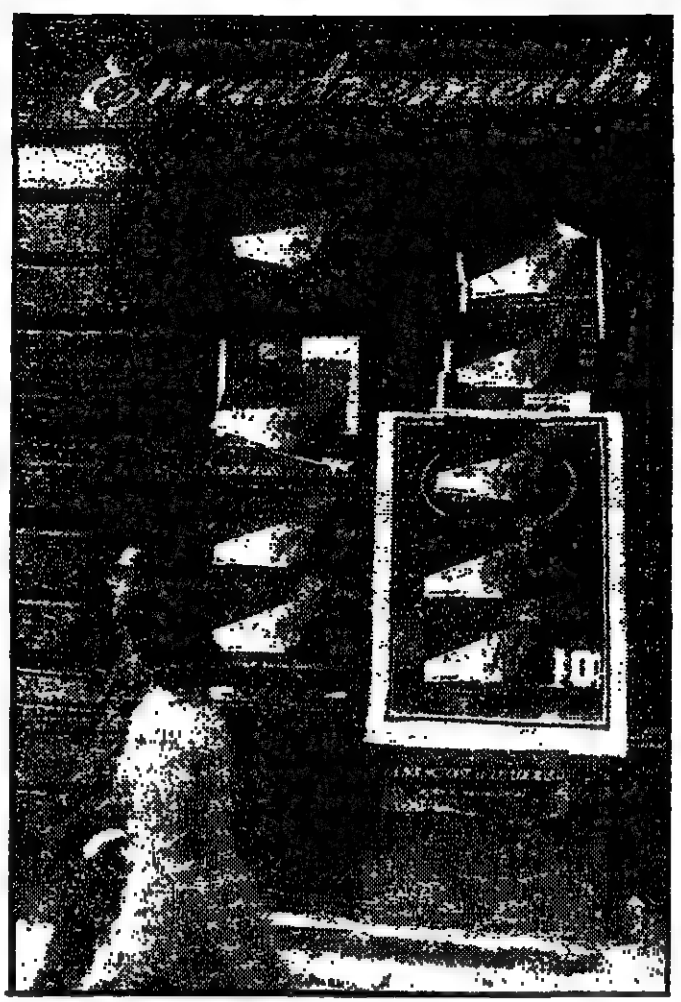
Compared with that of the unions, the employers' election campaign is a fairly cut-throat. Nevertheless, two million of them are eligible to vote, since everyone who employs even one worker has the right to choose a representative in the list covering the trade or industry from which he derives his living.

The main French employers' organisation the Confederation Nationale de Patronat Français (CNPF) which covers the big industries has been able to form a list of candidates common with several chambers of trade and industry, which covers small and medium-size businesses.

In all there are nearly 45,000 candidates, 37,700 for the employees and 6,500 for the employers. The rift of strength between the big three unions is obvious from the fact that they are all fielding more candidates than there are council posts available on the union side.

The CFDT, with 8,875 candidates, has the most in the field but the other two are not far behind. At the other end of the scale there are 1,175 independent candidates. When the uproar dies down France will be left with its new councils, elected for six years, and it will be up to the mto see if the reforms have really created a better industrial relations climate than before.

Ian Murray



Union posters plaster a doorway in Paris: there are 45,000 candidates in the tribunal elections.

Is television facing an advertising slump?

Derek Harris

tailers are predicting that the steep rise in bank interest rates will lead to large de-stocking and this in turn might make suppliers less keen to launch expensive new products.

That may be debatable, even though de-stocking and a reduction in variety seems likely, but there are also advertisers who have learned during the ITV strike that a television launch is not necessarily the only way to skin the cat in launching new products.

Certainly advertisers who were forced into preparing radio advertising campaigns could, having learned the techniques and their results, represent a permanent loss to the television contractors. One estimate is that commercial radio gained at least £4m during the strike. Although not much by television turnover standards, it is large in relation to commercial radio's turnover of rather more than £30m. Some believe half these extra earnings will stick.

But Ron Miller, sales director of London Weekend Television, makes the point that ITV in its turn has been broadening the base of its appeal to advertisers and that it is no longer so easy to predict how turnover may be hit.

It doesn't necessarily follow that all television advertising could be affected because economic recession may present opportunities for some as well as being a depressant for others. I am quite bullish about the

first three months of next year." Most of the industry sees the present truce of advertising spending suspended during the strike running out during March at the latest and this is where it is important for ITV to get back to its old ratings dominance over BBC 1, formerly at 40 per cent and BBC 2 at 10 per cent.

ITV before the strike was a touch over the 50 per cent mark but even the most optimistic estimates put its share now at about 40 per cent. At some peak hours, such as Sunday evenings when the largest audiences of the week are settling down in their slippers, it has been plummeting much further.

Advertisers and their agencies are naturally grumbling at pay-TV high rates for advertising when the audiences are not being delivered at their old strength. The Incorporated Society of British Advertisers (ISBA) has called for the Independent Broadcasting Authority to block new rate cards until

the audience ratings improve. This may not get them very far, because the only contracts which actually take account of the audience size are those based on the delivery of a given audience size. This is not a popular form of contract, because the television companies slot in advertising at their own choice simply to yield a given audience figure.

Usually particular time slots are bought and the price paid is basically a matter of auctioning, given the operation of the pre-auction, card system or its many variants. This system allows a would be buyer to make a bid for a particular spot which can be pre-empted by somebody else's higher bid.

The system, which Thames Television did much to elaborate, is fine for television companies in far times. But one question is whether a more difficult economic conditions this auction procedure might in fact lead to a series of low bids.

Another twist in the tactical battle between the ITV companies and advertisers and their agencies, in which everybody tries to get the best out of an increasingly complex system of rate cards and discounts, emerged this week with proposals coming from some of the ITV companies on the introduction of discounts for payment in advance for air time. ISBA director Kenneth Miles yesterday declared the idea totally unworkable and quite unacceptable to the big company advertisers. The attack may be pre-empted but the ITV companies are obviously not facing an easy ride over the coming months.

ITV ADVERTISING REVENUE

	1978	1979
January	24,795,872	29,546,244
February	28,635,872	30,068,792
March	31,700,284	33,769,467
April	31,335,139	37,586,282
May	30,496,385	36,523,879
June	23,791,774	32,386,515
July	24,856,821	27,410,625
August	24,390,000	—
Sept	32,744,317	—
October	37,831,150	—
Nov	39,708,802	—
Dec	34,781,111	—
Total	363,004,836	—

Business Diary: MG's 'superman' • Shah's wholly Ghost

Christopher Reeves is older than his film star namesake, but he, too, can lay claim to the title superman. At 43 he is about to succeed former stockbroker Bill Mackworth-Young as chief executive of Morgan Grenfell & Co, banking base of Morgan Grenfell Holdings. Mackworth-Young becomes chairman.

The post carries with it chairmanship of the new management committee of the bank, so Reeves becomes answerable to the board of the holding company.

Reeves has an unconventional background for a merchant banker. He started off (after service in the Rifle Brigade) as a trainee at the Bank of England and five years later moved to the then Philip Hill, because he wanted "to get my teeth into some commercial deals". He found himself in the middle of the merger with M. Samuel from which Hill Samuel emerged.

Then, at 32, he was persuaded by Lord Gatto (who takes over chairmanship of Morgan Grenfell Holdings when John Collins retires at the end of the year) to make the move to Great Winchester Street. He was asked to look at the structure of the organization and at the sort of people that the expansion-minded Morgan Grenfell should hire.

As a launching point for a high-flyer this was just the job. He still says that the principal constraint on the bank is the speed at which they can hire and train new people, but that the days in which he himself made a point of hiring outsiders with specific and developed skills are over.

And not a smile between 'em. Sir John Methuen (first right) is seen here putting on his inflation-fighting face for Pranta Belsky in the sculptor's Kensington studio. Belsky was taken with the look that so lugubriously has launched a thousand CHI position papers and asked its director-general to sit Sir John, who won't sit still for anybody else, agreed. The result is to be cast shortly and may be exhibited in the new year at the exhibition of the Royal Society of Portrait Sculptors in the Guildhall.

Rolls-Royce Motors is not unduly worried by the reluctance of the new Iranian government to settle a bill said to be of £25,000 for restoring the Shah's early version of its classic Silver Ghost. The company is continuing to work on another of the Shah's run-arounds, a Phantom, circa 1950.

As always, the purveyor of top cars for top people is circumspect when asked to discuss its clients. Politely, but firmly, the company spokesman deflected Business Diary's questions on the whereabouts of the Silver Ghost.

But Business Diary is nothing if not persistent. What, we asked, if the Ayatollah's men do refuse to cough up?

"Well, there is such a thing as a lien," was the reply. A lien, as the cheap chary Concise Oxford Dictionary explains is "The right to keep possession of property until debt in respect of it is discharged".

In other words, if the



Iranians do not pay up, Rolls keeps the car. But who in that case would be the winner? Off Business Diary set, on the trail of someone to put a price on a pre-1914 Silver Shadow and a 1950s Phantom.

Though an old friend, the first Rolls dealer shied away as if he had the plague. "I'd love to help you, old son," he said, "but without actually seeing the cars I could not give you even a rough price."

It was the same at two other dealers, one of them the famous Jack Barclay emporium in Berkeley Square, London.

Finally, it was back to Rolls, where our spokesman broke silence: "You can say that a lien on the Silver Ghost will provide at least double cover for a debt of £25,000 and I am not saying that the actual sum owed is £25,000."

If I was the Iranian ambassador, I'd cough up.

Among the changes lined up for the New Year is one affecting the top job at Deimler-Benz, the world's biggest maker of heavy lorries. Moving over from the driving seat is Joachim Zahn, who will be 65 in January. He hands over to Gerhard Prinz, 50, a director for five years and head of the company's materials department.

Prinz has not put in all his time with Deimler-Benz, or even in the motor industry. He spent the early part of his career in the steel business—as befits a Silesian—and did before joining the lorry group spent six years with Volkswagen, chairing the Audi-NSU subsidiary.

It was Professor Zahn, on Deimler-Benz's board for 20 years, who led the company's diversification into commercial vehicles.

The holiday business looks like being more cut-throat than ever next year and in an effort to enlarge shares of a static

market promoters are buying the services of some big show business names to boost sales. Thomas Cook Holidays has retained Eric Morecambe—"Big Tom, the King of the Happy Hols," he says of Cooks—and now holidays in the North of England are being sold with the help of Spike Milligan.

ETB—"that's Chinese for the English Tourist Board," says Milligan in a television commercial later this month—is spending £3m next year trying to persuade the English to stay at home. The likes of Thora Hird, Melvyn Bragg, and Freddie Trueman have been asked to glow in print about Lancashire, Cumbria and Yorkshire in the board's brochures.

Michael Montague, the board's chairman, said at the launch of the 1980 holiday programme yesterday that a lot of nonsense was being talked about foreign holidays being cheaper than those taken at home.

"I say that you can take an equivalent holiday for 10-20 per cent cheaper here than abroad."

Department of total irrelevance: Robin Duttie, the incoming chairman of the Scottish Development Agency, heads Silver and Edginton tent-making subsidiary once examined the possibilities of selling luxurious awnings to protect camels from being knocked down by speeding desert motorists. Lucky for Duttie the Arabs didn't go in for exporting tents to Scotland—very hot on tents, Arabs.

Ross Davies

INVESTORS' CHOICE

'3 YEAR' INCREMENT SHARES

11-85%

=

16-93%

PER ANNUM
(Gross return at basic rate tax)

*Subject to: (i) Interest being re-invested (ii) Basic Share rate (10-80%) being maintained over the increment share period.

FACILITIES FOR WITHDRAWALS

For personal advice contact:

Mr. A. R. Atkins, London Area Office:
34 London Wall, London EC2Y 5JD.
Tel: 01-606 2525/01-688 0114.

Mr. S. R. McDowell, East Anglian Area Office:
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Norwich NR2 1RG. Tel: 0603 29833.

Mr. D. Smith, South West Area Office:
33/35 Queen Square, Bristol BS1 4LL.
Tel: 0272 290381.

Miss J. Hebborn, Oxford Office:
6 Brewer Street, Oxford OX1 1QN.
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THE City of London

BUILDING SOCIETY

Assets exceed £70 million
MEMBER OF THE BUILDING SOCIETIES ASSOCIATION
Shares and Deposits in this Society are Trustee Investments.

YARROW

and Company Limited

Summary of Results for year ended 30th June 1979

	1979 £'000	1978 £'000
Turnover	13,014	6,746
Pre-Tax Profit	1,408	1,396
Attributable Profit	910	588
Dividends	300	206
Earnings per Share	24.7p	22.5p
Dividends - Interim	1.85p	1.70p
- Final	5.65p	3.45p
	7.50p	5.15p
Dividend Increase	45%	11%

The following are extracts from the Statement by the Chairman, Sir Eric Yarrow, M.B.E., D.L.

“Taking into account the difficult transitional period following the nationalisation of our major shipbuilding subsidiary, the results above are satisfactory. Group pre-tax profit includes only the interest on compensation payments received to date and is thus still under-stated by an unquantifiable amount. Your Board has decided to recommend that the annual dividend be brought up to 7.5 pence per share, which represents an increase of 45% over the previous year's restricted dividend.

Compensation and Distribution

The new Government has delayed for an indefinite period the question of the return to private ownership of the naval shipbuilding companies. This decision was most disappointing to us as we would have preferred early reacquisition of our former subsidiary company to a settlement of compensation on terms which are unlikely to reflect the asset value and future prospects of that company on vesting day. It is likely that the reacquisition of Yarrow (Shipbuilders) Limited by Yarrow and Company Limited is now impracticable. Your Board is therefore primarily concerned to ensure that Yarrow and Company Limited should receive fair and reasonable compensation for the loss of its former subsidiary.

The negotiations with the Department of Industry are delicate and confidential but I have to report that I am extremely disappointed at

the progress so far made. Your Board will continue to take every possible step to achieve a just settlement and when the negotiations have been concluded or a definite statement can be made I will inform shareholders by a special circular.

No further progress has been made with our application for fair treatment on the question of a further distribution from Yarrow (Shipbuilders) Limited. Our view, supported by professional advice, continues to be that to allow only £2.6 million of distributions out of available profits of almost £12 million earned by Yarrow (Shipbuilders) Limited in the four-year period up to vesting date cannot possibly be regarded as fair and reasonable. In effect, the substantial balance has been virtually confiscated. I hope that it may yet be possible to persuade the appropriate authorities that such a gross injustice must be put right.

The Future

In the past two years significant progress has been made in rebuilding and expanding the Yarrow Group following the nationalisation of our shipbuilding company. However until such time as the compensation and distribution issues are satisfactorily resolved it is extremely difficult to make future plans and commitments. Our principal subsidiary companies have scope for further expansion and the Group thus has a sound base on which to build. 99

Copies of the Annual Report may be obtained from: The Secretary, Yarrow and Company Limited, Charing Cross Tower, Glasgow G9 4UN. The Fifty Eighth Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday, 27th December 1979.

FINANCE FOR INDUSTRY LTD

Six months unaudited consolidated results

	6 months to September 30	Year to March 31	
	1979 £'000	1978 £'000	1979 £'000
Group income before interest and provisions	58,211	44,724	83,952
Interest on borrowings	35,708	28,218	51,597
Provisions	7,481	4,321	7,004
	43,189	32,539	58,601
Profit before tax	15,022	12,185	25,351
Estimated tax	6,988	5,250	10,517
Profit after tax	8,034	6,935	14,834
Minority interest	307	225	533
	7,727	6,710	14,301
Extraordinary items	1,482	1,502	3,158
	6,245	5,208	11,143
Interim dividend	2,000	-	200
Increase in retained surplus	4,245	5,208	10,943

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock Markets

Miners give a lift to sentiment

News that the confrontation with the miners looked like being averted gave the Stock Market an unexpected boost yesterday. But dealers were quick to point out that business remained thin with short positions on the books accounting for most of the improved performance.

Gold shares remained active as a result of the deteriorating situation in the Middle East and the higher bullion price which, at one point, touched \$436 before falling on profit taking in the wake of today's auction. DMF gold auction.

Oil shares were another buoyant sector following warnings from several of the major oil companies that oil shortages are anticipated in the new year.

Good results can be expected from Kenning Group when it reports next month. With the large car hire fleet going well profits could rise from £8.3m to around £8.5m. The shares, at 67p are only 15 per cent above their 1975 low and include no premium for a bid from an overseas trader.

Shares of Ledbrooke fell 7p to 132p following the closure of its London listing on Monday but rallied to finish the day unchanged at 133p on rumours that Lombard was interested in making a bid.

Conrad Leisure rose 4p to 65p. Satchell & Satchell continued to gain ground, rising 6p to 140p on reports that it was about to clinch a deal in the lucrative United States market, and

against the trend shedding a penny to 177p.

Oil shares were once again active on reports of a imminent oil shortage. Ultramar leapt 24p to 412p followed closely by manager partners OIL Exploration 14p up to 650p and Lamsco 12p higher at 348p. BP advanced 8p to 378p and the new 6p to 168p. Speculative demand lifted Satchell 14p to 390p and Tri-control were 6p stronger at 272p. Shell could only manage a 2p rise to 340p.

Gold shares remained buoyant in line with the rising bullion price and the gold shares index rose 5.4 to 243.9. Among the leaders Western Holdings improved 4p to 445p and Kloeit gained 4p to 222p. W. Drieland rose 4p to 561p. Among the cheaper gold East Rand Proprietary rose 4p to 313p while Venturport slipped 3p to 835p and Rishburg slipped 10p to 255p.

Shares of Ledbrooke fell 7p to 132p following the closure of its London listing on Monday but rallied to finish the day unchanged at 133p on rumours that Lombard was interested in making a bid.

Conrad Leisure rose 4p to 65p. Satchell & Satchell continued to gain ground, rising 6p to 140p on reports that it was about to clinch a deal in the lucrative United States market, and

Godfrey Davis improved 8p to 122p on speculative demand. Further reflection of Monday's impressive figures from Macmillan Halifax lifted the shares a further 7p to 172p.

A 51 per cent increase in profits at Birmingham lifted the shares 10p to 165p, while full-year figures were good for a 3p rise at Rank Hovis McDougall. Armitage Shanks improved 2p to 484p, after figures above most market estimates, and Castings were likewise 5p higher at 42p.

LOF's were 31p higher at 35p and Vintex rose 4p to 110p after their respective trading statements. Reports that Castain had temporarily withdrawn from negotiations with Wessex suspended on Monday, lifted the shares 2p to 144p, giving further fuel to the rumour that a third party is involved. Shares of Thorn remained unchanged at 374p. It is thought that it has now gained control of EMI up 2p to 130p.

In electricals arrived bid speculation lifted Deca "A" by 21p while the ordinary shares of 315p. Rascal, whose name has so often been linked with Deca and also has interim figures due out on Thursday, jumped 6p to 225p and GEC rose 4p to 180p. On Thursday improved 6p to 346p. Plessey rose 6p to 108p and Mairhead, where Tyco Corporation yesterday increased its holding to 13.1 per cent, up

ended 2p to 248p. The drinks sector was slightly better with Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries jumping 10p to 270p following full year figures and Irish Distillers also with full year figures, increased 4p to 80p.

Two views of how Trust House Forte, Britain's largest hotel group, fared in the year to October have emerged. One, associated with brokers such as Carr Seligman, says that profits rose £15m to £20m, another is that this looks too high. There is an anxiety in some quarters that Travelodge, a key part of the group's United States division, has done little better than Howard Johnson, the expensive looking United States acquisition of Imperial Group. The shares are 136p.

Bass Charrington were 1p firmer at 205p. Allied Breweries edged ahead by 2p to 80p. In engineering Lucas rose 3p to 225p and GKN was 9p stronger at 252p. Dowty were 7p up at 141p and Tubes improved 2p to 26p. Equity turnover on December 3, was £28,287m (10.41p bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were 101, Ladbrokes, GKN, Corbitt, Laidlaw, RSC, Shell, Ultramar, GEC, Courtauld, Boots, Beechams, Cons Gold Fields, P and O, Barclays Bank, Lamsco, Marks & Spencer and Land Secs.

Latest results

Company	Sales £m	Profit £m	Earnings p	Div p	Pay p	Year's turnover £m
Armstrong Shanks (T)	25.7(23.4)	2.5(2.0)	5.27(3.92)	1.5(1.34)	1/4	—
Best Egg Farm (I)	12.4(10.1)	1.3(1.1)	—	0.4(0.3)	18/1	2.25
Concrete Products (F)	35.59(2.53)	3.26(2.47)	14.9(14.74)	4.3(3.34)	15/2	5.9(4.14)
F. Cooper (F)	13.6(10.9)	0.67(0.53)	11.2(8.8)	1.17(0.78)	26/1	1.5(1.11)
Crystalline Hides (F)	13.5(8.5)	0.88(0.61)	3.39(2.0)	1.55(0.73)	4/1	—
Edwards (I)	4.5(4.3)	0.49(0.37)	—	0.8(0.7)	8/2	1.70
Hillingworth Morris (I)	56.0(62.5)	0.12(0.2)	—	0.5(0.55)	3/2	6(3.61)
Kelsey Ltd (F)	23.0(19.0)	2.24(2.13)	28.3(25.3)	4.5(2.36)	12/2	—
Lon & Oates (I)	7.7(8.11)	0.6(0.5)	2.0(1.98)	0.42(0.34)	12/2	0.93
Norton (I)	2.86(2.33)	0.61(0.52)	—	1.0(0.5)	29/2	2.5
P. Williams (F)	21.9(20.2)	0.25(0.2)	3.57(4.3)	1.78(1.7)	2/2	2.75(2.73)

Figures in this table are shown net of tax on profits. Dividends are shown net of tax. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. A. Adjusted for scrip. b. Loss.

Morgan Grenfell new look

By Aorienne Gleeson

There are to be changes at the top at Morgan Grenfell at the end of this year and they provide an opportunity to crystallise recent developments in the management of the group and its principal subsidiary, the accounting house Morgan Grenfell & Co. Mr John Collins, chairman, is to retire. Lord Carr, presently chairman of the banking subsidiary, is to succeed him. Mr Bill Mackworth-Young is to become chairman of the banking subsidiary, and Mr Christopher Reeves is to succeed him as chief executive.

This latter appointment carries with it chairmanship of a new management committee,

composed of divisional heads of the banking subsidiary, and this new committee is to take over responsibility for administration of the bank.

Mr Reeves thus becomes responsible for the future performance of the bank, whose footings have doubled over the past four years, to the board of the holding company. This in addition to Lord Carr and Mr Mackworth-Young, will include some individuals who are directors of the bank but not committees.

Morgan Grenfell Holdings is a public unlisted company, one third of whose shares are held by J. P. Morgan, part of the Pierpoint Morgan group of investment bankers in the US.

AE purchase in Europe

In another significant European move, Associated Engineering has acquired control of one major West German distributor of automotive components having a combined turnover of some £10m.

First AE has acquired a majority share of the capital of Julius Celler AG, a holding company with subsidiary interests for DM 5.5m (£875,000). Celler had acquired a 10 per cent share of DM 30m (£450,000) in Julius Celler controls wholesale and specialist parts distributors in Southern Germany and Holland.

The second, smaller company, Walter Seidenbrenner

GMBS, is based in Stuttgart with branches in Nürnberg, Mannheim and Rottweil. Seidenbrenner is a well-established distributor of engine, chassis and transmission parts with a third of its DM 100m (£150m) turnover in parts and accessories.

These acquisitions in Germany, coupled with the recently announced purchase of AE's French bearing licensee SIC and the £10m investment casting facility at Garton, near Leeds, for turbine components, form part of AE's plan to develop its European base both in manufacture and distribution, and to increase its sales in high technology turbine components.

Smith & Nephew feels drop in spending

A drop in consumer spending has left third-quarter profits static at Elastoplast, Nives, creams and Gals cosmetics group Smith & Nephew.

In the three months to October 6, 1979, pre-tax profits were maintained at £5.6m taking the nine month figure up from £14.5m to £15.6m on sales £15m higher at £153m.

And with interest rates at record levels Mr Kenneth Kemp, chairman, is cautious about forecasting any growth in the final period. Borrowings in the year are likely to increase from a previous £25m to £40m, but Mr Kemp ruled out any possibility of a rights issue.

The recent acquisition Anchor Continental, for which Smith paid £8m in cash, made a first-time contribution of £45,000 at the pre-tax level. Provisional Smith can maintain its final quarter profits, the group could turn in £21.5m for the full year, against a previous £20.5m.

Panel decision today on Montfort-Dixon

A decision is expected today from the Take-Over Panel regarding Palma Textile Group's stake in Montfort (Knitting Mills), now under offer by David Dixon.

Palma, which has increased its holding to 14.85 per cent, is claimed by Dixons to be infringing Rule 37 of the Takeover Code and acting against shareholders' interests.

Over £8m pre-tax at Irish Distillers

Although interest and depreciation charges are heavier this time, the Irish Distillers Group still boosted its pre-tax profits by 21 per cent to a record £8.82m in the year to September 30. This was achieved on a turnover 17.9 per cent up at £82.7m. The total dividend is being raised from 3.25p (adjusted) to 3.85p gross. Figures are in Irish pounds.

RMC takes control of fire alarm firm

Ready Mixed Concrete has bought 80 per cent of Lander Alarm Co (Scotland), for £1.1m, of which £1m has been satisfied by the issue of 784,890 ordinary shares, with the balance of £800,000 payable in cash in November, 1980. RMC and the remaining shareholders have granted each other options in respect of the outstanding 20 per cent of Lander's capital. Lander is a private firm, making and installing electronic,

security and fire alarms in Scotland. At the date of purchase, Lander's net tangible assets were about £125m, including cash of £275,000. Pre-tax profits for the year to April were expected to be about £300,000.

Hazelwoods buys onion-peeling firm

Hazelwoods has bought Moor Rose Farm Products, a Lincolnshire-based onion-peeling company for £85,000 cash. In the year to July 31 last, Moor Rose made pre-tax profits of £25,000.

Profits stand still at Marling Inds

In spite of sales of Marling Industries (makers of industrial textiles) expanding from £8.11m to £9.7m in the six months to September 30, pre-tax profits were virtually unchanged at £601,000, against £604,000.

Raising the interim payment from the equivalent of 0.54p to 0.59p gross, the board reports that the dividend is in line with expectations and overall current trading continues at predicted levels.

Yarrow waits on compensation

In the past two years, "significant progress" has been made in rebuilding and expanding the Yarrow Group following the nationalisation of the shipbuilding side, reports Sir Eric G. Yarrow, the chairman, in his annual statement. However, until such time as the compensation and distribution issues are satisfactorily resolved, it is "extremely difficult" to make future plans and commitments.

Dull first half for Vinten

Having achieved record results in 1978-79, the Suffolk-based Vinten Group has suffered a slight downturn for the six months to September 30. With turnover down from £2.93m to £2.66m, pre-tax profits slipped from £622,000 to £610,000. The fall in turnover arises from lower sales on factored equipment associated with Vinten's reconnaissance systems.

Meanwhile, the world market for the group's television camera-mounting equipment continues to be good, but orders for military equipment are slow. The board explains that it is difficult to make any

certain forecast for the year because of a serious delay in the placing of a significant MOD contract. The interim dividend is being maintained at 0.85p gross, but this is to reduce the disparity between payments. Vinten makes film and television equipment and aerial reconnaissance systems, etc.

Pressure on margins at Castings

Because of the engineering dispute and continuing pressure on margins, the pre-tax profits of the Castings group of malleable foundries dropped by 5 per cent to £23,000 in the half-year to September 30. This was in spite of a 4.9 per cent rise in turnover to £2.9m. The interim dividend is being maintained at 0.85p gross. Castings' new foundry is nearing completion and it is hoped it will be in production by the end of the current year.

Acrow Valve's US acquisition

Acrow has announced that it has acquired the Centurion Valve operation of Geosource in Houston, Texas. This acquisition, costing about £3m (about £1.6m), will enable Acrow to extend its service to the oil and petro-chemical industries in North and South America.

Two years ago Acrow (through its subsidiary, Adamson and Hatchett) set up the Adamson-Chromister valve division in collaboration with Mr Clyde Chromister, chairman of the Houston-based Chromister valve company, one of the world's leading valve designers. With the purchase of the Houston plant and Centurion product line, the Acrow organisation says it will now become one of the major companies in the design, manufacture and marketing of through-conduit gate valves for the oil, gas and petro-chemical industries.

First-half pressures cut Highams' profit

In the face of increasingly difficult trade and with continuing rises in costs, the engineering margins, pre-tax profit of Highams, the Accrington, Lancashire, textiles group, slipped from £762,000 to £698,000 in the half-year ended September 23, 1979.

Sales turnover fell £12.96m to £12.56m, but bank and debt interest in the half-year rose from £128,000 to £162,000. The interim payment, gross, is being held at 1.14p. On last year's record pre-tax profit of £1.3m, the dividend total was 1.49p gross. Chairman Mr

William Higham said in his annual statement in June that the group had increased its profit in six of the past seven years and the directors would do all they could to continue this trend.

Record year for Crystallite

In spite of absorbing a non-recurring loss of about £550,000, Crystallite (Chodhings), a sell order to produce pre-tax profits up from £617,000 to a best-ever £888,000 in the 12 months to September 30. The loss relates to the Greenwicks plastics operation which has now been discontinued. Sales rose from £8.56m to £13.58m. The electronics division again met its full expectations. The total dividend, gross, goes up from 1.1p to 1.64p.

Half-year loss at W. E. Norton

Disruption amongst major customers of W. E. Norton (Holdings) during the engineers' strike is given as the main reason for the losses for the six months to September 30.

A pre-tax profit of £231,000 was turned into a loss of £65,000 on turnover up from £6.3m to £8.04m.

The board is confident that it can make up some of the loss in the second half and the order intake is good. The interim dividend is 0.57p gross against 0.59p.

Hillingworth Morris into loss

Losses at Hillingworth, Morris, the wool and cotton manufacturer, amounted to £120,000 in the half year to September 30, 1979 compared with pre-tax profits of £2.6m last time.

The group, in which Mrs Pamela Mason is a major shareholder, saw a drop in turnover from £62.6m to £56m. But the losses are considerably smaller than those anticipated earlier this year when Mr Iven Hill took the chairman's reins. The interim dividend has been maintained at 0.79p gross.

Mr Hill said that although trading conditions continue to give little cause for early optimism, economies arising from rationalisation will exercise "a favourable influence on future profitability". Last year the group made a pre-tax profit of £3.87m.

HEMMEY & CO.
Pre-tax profit for half-year to July 31, £218,000 (£202,000). Interim payment, 1.15p (1.1p).

FINANCIAL NEWS

Price increases and Lager sales boost three brewers

By Rosemary Unsworth

A crop of brewing results show that the weather and a series of price increases can do. They also emphasise the growing importance of lager.

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries lived up to market expectations by producing pre-tax profits of £8.16m for the year ending September 30, 1979, compared with £7.1m. Turnover increased by 15 per cent to £56m, compared with 12 per cent in the first half.

The Midlands group has been busy concluding its capital expenditure programme to meet forecast capacity requirements and to improve production efficiency, said Mr. E. J. Thompson, chairman. At the

same time Wolverhampton and Dudley have expanded and improved its premises with five new pub openings.

At the same time bank borrowings have been reduced from £3.4m to £279,000, Mr. Thompson pointed out.

Wolverhampton and Dudley's 10 per cent stake in the newly formed Harp Lager consortium means that a direct investment in production and marketing of Harp brands is essential because of the rapid development of the market.

Other two members of the consortium are Arthur Guinness and Greene King and Sons.

A final dividend of 8.6 pence has been recommended, making 12p against 10p last year.

Development Brewery (Holdings) saw a 10 per cent increase

in turnover to £24.7m in the year to September 29, 1979 but pre-tax profits dropped back from £1.55m to £1.54m. Operating profit increased slightly to £1.8m from £1.66m.

The board pointed out earlier this year that margins had been under pressure after a prolonged bad winter and the need to maintain prices when costs were increasing.

A final dividend of 3.8p gross has been proposed, making a total of 5p compared with 4.75p last year.

The Nottinghamshire-based Mansfield Brewery also saw a small turnover improvement from £11m to £12m in the half year to September 30, 1979. Profits at the pre-tax level rose to £2.2m from £1.7m.

The interim dividend rises from 1.3p gross to 1.4p.

Steetley pays \$15m for US firm

The Steetley Company, the Nottinghamshire-based, time-burner, has paid \$15m, through a Canadian subsidiary, for Ohio Lime, a United States company.

Mr Peter Roberts, Steetley's finance director, says the new business operates a rotary kiln with a capacity of 250,000 tons a year and has substantial dolomite reserves. Its business is, therefore, very similar to those run by Steetley in the United Kingdom and elsewhere.

But Mr Roberts declined to say how much Ohio would add to Steetley's profits, except that it would earn the desired rate of return. The purchase is being funded by loans raised by the Canadian company.

Steetley has been looking for a major United States acquisition for two years. Earlier this year it paid \$2.3m for a small dolomite lime plant close to Ohio.

Monfalcone talks

Milan—A new foreign partner may take a major share of Italian chemical company Monfalcone SPA, which is already 10 per cent controlled by Sella Chemicals, Ghisla Chemicals, and other companies.

Sigmo Mario Schimberni, vice-chairman and chief executive officer, said in an interview with the United States magazine Business Week that Monfalcone is holding talks with a potential new partner whom he would not identify. A company spokesman confirmed the accuracy of the report—AP—Dow Jones.

A Cohen sale

The boards of A. Cohen and Co., the United Kingdom non-ferrous metals group, and Huletts Investments, a wholly owned subsidiary of Huletts Corp., a South African company, have reached conditional agreement whereby Cohen will dispose of part of its 61 per cent interest in the South African subsidiary, Metal Sales Co. (Proprietary), to Huletts for a

cash consideration equivalent to £19.7m. Other shareholders in MSC will sell simultaneously their shares in MSC to Huletts.

Cohen will retain a 24 per cent interest in MSC, with balance being held by Huletts. The agreement provides for Cohen to dispose of his remaining holding in Huletts during six years following completion and, if this option is not exercised then for Huletts to purchase that holding. The agreement is subject, inter alia, to consent of regulatory authorities and approval of both shareholders of Cohen and of MSC resident in South Africa.

About 40 per cent of Cohen's turnover is in Africa.

Northrop bids action

Northrop Corporation of America has filed a lawsuit in District Court in Los Angeles which has withdrawn a preliminary injunction against McDonnell.

International

Douglas Corporation involving the sale of F-18 aircraft to Canada.

The action was withdrawn because McDonnell Douglas agreed to a stipulation not to commit to other parties work allocated to Northrop on the F-18 jet and also agreed to make the plane "carrier suitable".

Northrop had asked the court to issue a preliminary injunction against McDonnell Douglas because without its consent McDonnell had offered to let Canadian aircraft be part of the F-18 now being produced by Northrop.

Canon in Tokyo deal

Canon Incorporated says it will acquire a 19.5 per cent equity in Cypres Co Limited of Japan, to become the largest shareholder of the medium-sized Japanese copying machine manufacturer.

BMW optimistic

Bayerische Motorenwerke AG of West Germany expects its 1979 world group turnover to rise to a provisional DM7.4bn (about £1.7bn) from DM6.6bn in 1978, a company spokesman said.

A spokesman said that parent company turnover will rise to about DM6.5bn from about DM5.8bn.

BMW expects to produce about 336,000 cars this year compared with about 321,000 in 1978.

Between 1980 and 1984 BMW will double production, its group investments from the DM1.6bn figure invested between 1975 and 1979, the spokesman said.

Several hundred million marks will be invested in a new car plant, which the company is planning, though no specific details were given.

The new plant should become operational between 1983 and 1984, though a location for the works has not yet been chosen.

—Reuters.

UAC of Nigeria

Unilever's UAC of Nigeria forecasted a 1979 pre-tax profit of £35m, which would be a 40 per cent increase on the £25m of the previous year.

Unilever, for a £20m 1979 pre-tax profit, expects to reach £35m compared with £25m in the previous year.

Unilever's 1979 combined pre-tax profit is estimated at £14m against £10m in 1978, which was largely reflected in Unilever's third quarter results published last month.

US & GENERAL

London and Manchester Assurance has acquired a further 65,947 ordinary shares in United States and General Trust and now holds an interest in 1.3m shares (16.16 per cent).

MID-SUSSEX WATER

Result of offer for sale by tender of £1.25m 7 per cent redeemable preference stock, 1983, is that underwriters have been called on to take up 99.99 per cent of issue.

Options

Traded options remained in the doldrums yesterday as investors remained on the sidelines. An early indication of how quiet conditions were was shown at 11 am when only 59 contracts had been completed.

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UK RESERVES

The following are the figures for the United Kingdom's official reserves issued by the Treasury.

End of period	£m	£m	Change in month
1979			
Jan	16,258	8,192	584
Feb	16,617	8,213	359
March	17,434	8,448	837
April	21,467	10,620	1,153
May	21,532	10,378	-480
June	22,070	10,163	-538
July	23,499	10,400	1,429
Aug	23,305	10,337	-194
Sept	22,761	10,332	-554
Oct	22,417	10,199	-81
Nov	22,417	10,199	-81

Reserves revealed until March

John Williams profits plunge in hard year

By Rosemary Unsworth

Gloomy first half results were matched by disappointing second six month figures at John Williams of Cardiff, the steel stockholder, iron founder and architectural products manufacturer.

Pre-tax profits slumped from a record £1.2m to £256,000 in the year ending September 30, 1979. Turnover rose 8 per cent to £21.9m and Mr Harold Williams, chairman, said that 1979 had been "difficult and disappointing for the group".

The main problems were linked to a major plant installation scheme in the foundry operation, national industrial disputes and a sales performance which failed to keep pace with rising operational costs. But Mr Williams emphasised that the current year had started on a better note.

The group is benefiting from a £3m investment programme at the foundries where the first half profits at Staffordshire-based Armitage Shanks were the best for a year.

John Williams Foundries made a trading profit of £17,000 compared with last year's £557,000. The downturn was due to a modernisation scheme which turned out to be more disruptive than expected. The engineering workers' dispute also contributed to the plant's closure for a short time.

John Williams' profit also fell from £240,000 to a trading loss of £83,000 but the group's profit came from its Scottish and Welsh steel stockholding companies which contributed £722,000 against £672,000.

A final dividend of 2.5p gross has been recommended, making a total of 3.92p, the same as last year.

Steady growth at Kelsey Inds

Kelsey Industries continued its pattern of small but steady profits growth during the year after making similar progress in the first half.

On a turnover increase of 16 per cent to £17m, pre-tax profits showed a 5 per cent rise to £2.2m for the year to September 30, 1979. Although the manufacturing companies, which improved exports by 9 per cent, suffered from reduced profit margins, the roofing contracting division's results improved, following the trend established in the first six months which coincided with better weather.

But Mr John Moss, chairman, warned shareholders that margins remain "the key to the problem of maintaining profits in the inflationary conditions which prevail and appear certain to continue next year".

On the manufacturing side, UK turnover rose by 18 per cent to £8m while export turnover increased from £7.9m to £9m during the year. Multicores Solders in Australia raised pre-tax profits by 26 per cent after management changes, and Mr Moss added that there were hopes of the group exporting again to New Zealand if

Australia and New Zealand conclude an economic union. US trading resulted in a small loss for Bib Hi-Fi Accessories, now 49 per cent by the group.

A final dividend of 6.4p gross has been recommended, making a total of 8.5p which represents a 104,000 ordinary shares, making a total holding of 1,563,000 shares.

Although Mr Moss pointed out that orders have been well maintained in the first two months of the year, he said that exports would depend on world economy and sterling rates.

B. A. DYSON & CO

Discussions are taking place, which may lead to an offer being made for group. Stock Exchange has been requested to suspend listing of the company's shares and a further announcement will be made as soon as possible.

JOHN K. KINCAID

Bank of England reports that an issue of about £1.6m of 9 1/2 per cent Treasury stock, 1981, is being made as compensation in respect of the unquoted securities of John G. Kincaid.

ALLIED IRISH BANKS

Allied Irish Banks is pressing ahead with its seven-year 360m Redeemable Preference Stock, 1981, which was postponed a week ago because of the Irish bank crisis.

CONCRETE PRODUCTS

Marley's Irish subsidiary, Concrete Products of Ireland, reports sales for year to date of £1.2m, compared with £1.1m in the same period last year. Total dividend, gross 7.85p, against 5.55p (adjusted for scrip issue).

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Result of offer for sale by tender of £1.25m 7 per cent redeemable preference stock, 1983, is that underwriters have been called on to take up 99.99 per cent of issue.

YEARELY BONDS

This week's crop of local authority bonds carries a coupon of 15 1/2 per cent—down from last week's 15 1/2 per cent.

BRISTOL EVENING POST

When converting the current position of the Bristol Evening Post, the chairman, Mr Ernest Cars is "not unduly dismayed by the gloomy world economic outlook. He tells shareholders in his annual statement that this view is based partly on the group's recovery in the second half of 1978, but also on the disappointment of the previous year.

FREDERICK COOPER

Turnover for year to July 31, £13.6m (£10.35m). Pre-tax profit, £575,000 (£482,000). Total payment, 2.14p (1.66p) gross.

MOSS ENGINEERING

When converting the current position of the Moss Engineering group, the chairman, Mr Ernest Cars is "not unduly dismayed by the gloomy world economic outlook. He tells shareholders in his annual statement that this view is based partly on the group's recovery in the second half of 1978, but also on the disappointment of the previous year.

NBS NEWSAGENTS

NBS Newsagents announce agreement to purchase Ian Yates, wholesaler cash and carry business in the confectionery and tobacco field with headquarters in Manchester and warehouses in Glasgow, Manchester, Leicester and Poole. It is anticipated that Yates' annual pre-tax profit will be not less than £0.5m with interesting expansion prospects for the future.

Briefly

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Armitage Shanks manages rise of 25 pc despite disruption

By Alison Mitchell

In keeping with other groups involved in engineering, first half profits at Staffordshire-based Armitage Shanks were hit by the industrial unrest in the industry.

Although Mr Kennedy Campbell, chairman, declines to quantify the costs of the strike, pre-tax profits in the six months to September 29, 1979, did rise by a quarter from £2m to £2.5m. Turnover was a tenth higher at £25.7m.

Both the engineering and ceramic divisions of the group, which includes the engineering workers' dispute also contributed to the plant's closure for a short time.

However the 25 per cent rise in earnings has been mainly due to the fact that the chairman warns shareholders that the international outlook

and high interest rates could make orders more difficult to obtain.

Export sales, which amount to about 20 and 25 per cent of total turnover dropped slightly during the period but now show signs of progress again.

Nigeria, which accounted for almost a third of United Kingdom ceramic exports, closed its doors on imported ceramic sanitaryware but Mr Campbell is cautiously confident that there may be some lifting of the restrictions in the near future.

Elsewhere overseas, the Singapore subsidiary is now breaking-even while the Australian offshoot has turned round. It ought to be profit-making by the year end.

Exchange differences, which are taken in below the line,

amount to £11,000 against a previous £35,000.

During the six months, the group sold its builders' merchants North Eastern Distributors for more than £1.5m and this has substantially reduced group borrowings.

Ceramics SA, a Panamanian company controlled by Lebanese interests has now increased its holding in Armitage to around 20 per cent. However the chairman sees the stake as no more than a trading investment and discounts the possibility of a bid. As yet Ceramics has made no approaches for a seat on the board.

For shareholders there is an interim dividend of 2.14p against a previous 2p, adjusted for the one-for-two scrip issue. Yesterday the shares rose 2p to 48 1/2p.

Unicorp's gold strike

Union Corporation has discovered a new gold mine. The deposit, of unspecified size, is on property owned by a subsidiary, Beatrix Mines, in the Orange Free State.

A full feasibility study of the mine, which is described as medium to low-grade, will be completed by the middle of next year. But the company is confident enough of its geological work to begin pre-grouting of the shaft areas before the study is finished.

Pre-grouting is the process of sinking bore holes and laying drainage to prevent a shaft becoming flooded while it is being sunk. Union Corporation has gained extensive experience in these engineering techniques since it needed to sink new shafts in the Orange Free State in 1954.

About R1m (£546,000) is a stake if the study is unfavourable. But that is offset many times over by starting short preparations now and saving on future cost increases.

Cadmium price

Cadmium, a little known metal used for electroplating pigments and batteries, is being watched by market consultants at the moment. Asarco, the United States mining company, has recently raised its price from \$2.50 a pound to \$2.75.

Market sources expect the price could soon be increased again to \$3.00 a pound. The free market price is currently around \$2.80.

Upward pressure on the price stems from sluggish zinc production. Cadmium is mainly produced from the smelting and refining of zinc concentrates. About seven or eight pounds are recovered from every tonne of primary zinc.

Low zinc prices have kept cadmium output down for much of this year. Total production outside the centrally planned economies in 1978 was 18,130 tonnes, according to the United States Bureau of Mines.

Endeavour oil

Endeavour resources, the Australian oil and mineral exploration group, has raised its commitment to the Cooper Basin oil deposit in Queensland from A\$4.2m (£2.1m) to A\$7.4m, the company's chairman, Mr Eric Webb, says in his annual report.

The contingent liability of A\$5.7m to Burmah Oil, from whom the 30 per cent Cooper stake was bought, has been cut to A\$600,000.

But Endeavour has also decided to write off all its oil exploration interests in Papua New Guinea, giving an extraordinary item of A\$131m.

The tin and tantalum plant at Moolihla Western Australia, was shut for nearly three months to increase productive capacity. Mr Webb says that output from the plant in the first four months of the fiscal year has exceeded that for the whole of the previous year. Net income from Moolihla is projected at A\$1.5 for 1979-80.

Bougainville

The Bougainville Copper copper and gold mine is now back in full production after last week's strike, the news agency Australian Associated Press reports from Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

AAP quoted Bougainville general manager, Mr Paul Quodling, as saying production had returned to full levels within 20 hours of the end of the three day strike last week.—Reuters.

Business appointments

Morgan Grenfell changes

Lord Carlo, at present chairman of Morgan Grenfell & Co, has been appointed chairman of Morgan Grenfell Holdings to succeed Mr J. E. H. Collins. Mr C. W. Mackworth Young will become chairman of Morgan Grenfell & Co.

Mr C. R. Resnick, vice-chairman, will succeed him as group chief executive and Mr C. F. M. Rawlinson will become vice-chairman of Morgan Grenfell Holdings.

Mr C. F. M. Rawlinson will also be chairman of a management committee of directors comprising Mr C. F. M. Rawlinson, Mr E. G. Grenfell, Mr B. N. Hardman, Mr D. C. Keys, Mr B. J. Pennington, Mr R. M. L. Webb and Mr C. M. J. Whittington. The Holdings board will be reconstituted as follows: Lord Carlo, chairman; Mr E. P. Chappell and Mr G. W. Mackworth Young, vice-chairmen; Mr D. V. Bendall, Mr G. L. Law, Mr D. A. Pease, Mr J. Sparrow, Mr A. R. Taylor (non-executive) and Mr C. A. Westcott.

Mr D. N. Smith is to be joint managing director of J. B. & S. Lees, with the present managing director, Mr D. Shaw. Mr Smith will have additional responsibilities for the Amey & Co subsidiary, J. B. & S. Lees Incorporated.

Mr T. A. Cooper continues as a director and will have responsibility for all works functions.

Mr Brian Hopper has joined Zurich Life as sales and marketing manager from The Scottish Amicable Life Assurance Society.

Mr David Mitchell, director of the British Furniture Manufacturers' Federation of BFM Exhibitions, is to be the next president of the UEA (Union Européenne de l'ameublement—the European Furniture Manufacturers' Federation).

Dr David Swallow has been named as managing director of the speciality chemicals division of Tunnel Holdings.

Mr Harold Delvin has been made chief executive of Dayville.

Mr Michael Thompson has been appointed a director of Raglan Property.

Dr J. A. Vickers is joining the board of Beechwood Construction (Holdings) and will take up the post of managing director of the construction division.

Mr S. G. Cameron is to become chairman and chief executive of Gallaher from January 1. He has been appointed to the board of American Brands Inc. Gallaher's parent company, Mr A. W. H. Stewart-Moore will retire as chairman of Gallaher.

Mr Derrick G. Smith has been made marketing director and general manager of Sperry New Holland.

Mr Ted Crabbie is joining the board of Press Association.

Mr Donald M. Kornumpp has joined the Graysday Bank Group as managing director of Graysday Brands Licensing.

L&O's sale brings a profit

London and Overseas Freighters saw a return to profits after two years of losses with the sale of two vessels during the first half.

Profits amounted to £1.77m for the half year to September 1979 compared with a £200,000 loss at the same time last year. The surplus on the sale of two vessels totalled £1.6m and the group has since sold another two in the second half. This leaves the group with four modern tankers, two older ones and four bulk carriers.

The group said it was quietly confident and planned to make investments in new ships. As usual, L&O saw no interim dividend payment.

Northern Foods' big US investment

In the offer document dealing with the take-over of Bluebird Inc of the US, the board of Northern Foods reports that Northern intends to establish a corporate structure in the US for the purpose of implementing the take-over. Northern Investments (NI) has been set-up as a US offshoot of Northern. NI will indirectly hold an equity interest of 86.7 per cent in Northern Food Products (Newco), the other 13.3 per cent being held by Sher.

Sher will be a limited partnership formed with Mr Cook, chief executive of Bluebird. Bluebird will become a subsidiary of Newco which Northern will use as the vehicle for further investments in the US. Northern is providing \$26m (about £12m) from its internal resources for the equity of Newco.

A further \$4m is to be provided for equity by Sher. The balance of about \$42m is being provided by the Midland Bank.

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RADIO

TELEVISION

11.00 am The Vio-
und. 11.50 The Ani-
Border News. 5.15
Lookaround. 11.50
10 am Border News.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN : + STEREO : * BLACK AND WHITE

-Managerial-Administrative-Secretarial-Personal Assistants-

[illegible]

